



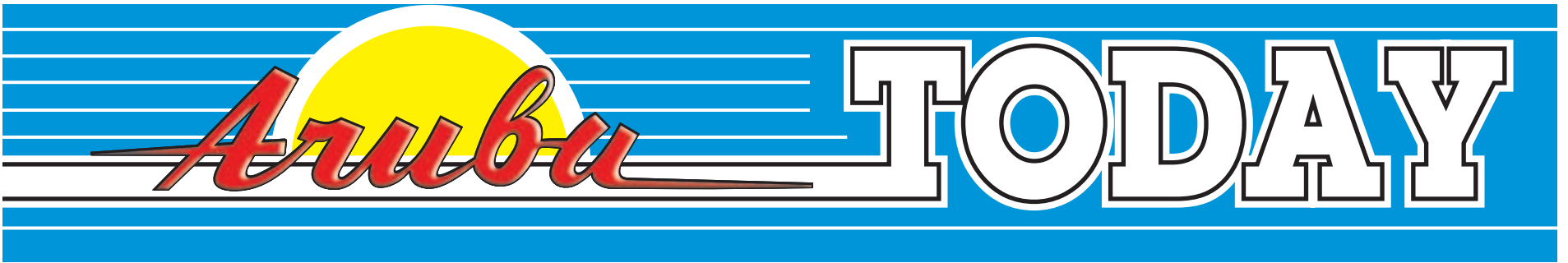
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On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, July 3, 2014



STORM WATCH

People deal with the high surf and currents off Daytona Beach generated by Tropical Storm Arthur on Tuesday, July 1, 2014. A tropical storm watch was in effect for a swath of Florida's east coast. The National Hurricane Center urged those as far north as parts of Virginia to monitor Tropical Storm Arthur's path.

(AP Photo/The Daytona Beach News-Journal, Jim Tiller)

Ahead of July 4th,

Evacuation Ordered For Island on NC's Outer Banks

BRUCE SMITH
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — As one of the year's busiest travel weekends approaches, so does another visitor: Tropical Storm Arthur, expected to grow into a hurricane by the Fourth of July and hit most harshly

at North Carolina's Outer Banks, a popular getaway spot of thin barrier islands along the shore.

The first named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season prompted a hurricane warning for a wide swath of the North Carolina coast and had officials, hotel

owners and would-be vacationers as far north as New England carefully watching forecasts.

The Outer Banks will be especially vulnerable, forecasters said.

Officials ordered a mandatory evacuation of Hatteras Island starting at 5 a.m.

Thursday.

Home to the famous Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, the island is a narrow spit of land, and the two-lane North Carolina Highway 12 is the only way to the mainland other than ferries to the south. Twice in recent years, storm-driven waves

have sliced N.C. 12, rendering it impassable.

A voluntary evacuation was announced earlier for the Outer Banks' Ocracoke Island, which is accessible only by ferry.

Continued on page 4

Obama seeks advice from economists

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Wednesday invited top economists to a private lunch at the White House for the second time in three weeks, tapping a broad array of ideological views as he seeks to assemble an economic agenda for the

sues ranging from banking and finance to technology and education. The approach is not altogether new for Obama. He has been known to enjoy meals with historians and, early in his presidency, frequently sought outside counsel from economists as he prepared policies to address the financial crisis

talk about his or her work then initiates a discussion and concludes by asking for specific policy proposals. In addition to lunch with the president, several of the economists either arrived early or stayed late to meet with government economists from various agencies, including the Treasury and Commerce



A plane flies towards Washington's Ronald Reagan National Airport as President Barack Obama speaks about transportation and the economy at the Georgetown Waterfront Park in Washington. Obama on Wednesday invited top economists to a private lunch at the White House for the second time in three weeks, tapping a broad array of ideological views as he seeks to assemble an economic agenda for the remaining 30 months of his presidency.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

remaining 30 months of his presidency.

Unable to get his economic policies through a divided Congress, Obama is going beyond his White House economic team in search of ideas that can translate into executive actions or ways to nudge institutions and businesses to make changes that meet his economic goals. Some of the participants are well-known to Obama. Among Wednesday's guests was former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, freed from the firewalls that separate the White House from the nation's central bank. Others such as Princeton's Alan Blinder, who lunched with Obama two weeks ago, and Harvard's Martin Feldstein who was a guest Wednesday, have provided their advice to Obama before.

All in all, 13 economists have been to the White House since June 18, offering Obama their take on is-

and the Great Recession. But the new sessions with economists differ in focus from the past, one senior administration official said, because Obama is tapping academics with diverse ideologies and who study a range of topics, from the impact of robotics to corporate governance. The political views of the participants range from liberals like Princeton economist and New York Times columnist Paul Krugman, who days before his meeting with Obama described his host as "looking like a very consequential president indeed," to conservative Kevin Hassett who has written that Obama's efforts to stimulate a recovery "have had little visible impact on the relative performance of the U.S. economy."

Participants, speaking on the condition of anonymity to describe the private sessions, say Obama during the 90-minute lunches asks each economist to

departments.

"I think it is good if he is trying to figure out what can be done from the White House in two and a half years," said Anat Admati, a finance and economics professor at Stanford University who attended the June 18 session. "The White House is just a piece of the puzzle. What it can do are two things, it can appoint people subject to needing them confirmed. The second things are softer - pushing, giving cues to other people or working behind the scenes."

Obama has been visibly frustrated by his inability to win legislative battles in Congress. Congressional Republicans note that they have passed a number of bills aimed at spurring the economy only to see them blocked in the Democratic controlled Senate. Both sides have engaged in election-year posturing, as well, pushing issues that play to their respective core voters. □

US seeks more security at some foreign airports

KEN DILANIAN
EILEEN SULLIVAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Intelligence officials are concerned about a new al-Qaida effort to create a bomb that would go undetected through airport security, a counterterrorism official said Wednesday, prompting the U.S. to call for tighter security measures at some foreign airports.

The counterterrorism official, who would not be named because he was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly, declined to describe the kind of information that triggered the warning. But officials in the past have raised concerns about non-metallic explosives being surgically implanted inside a traveler's body, designed to be undetectable in pat-downs or metal detectors.

The U.S. has been planning for additional measures for the past month, a counterterrorism official said, adding there was no immediate threat that led to the announcement by the Homeland Security Department that it was requesting tighter security abroad.

American intelligence has picked up indications that bomb makers from al-Qaida's Yemen affiliate have traveled to Syria to link up with the al-Qaida affiliate there. The groups are working to perfect an explosive device that could foil airport security, according to the counterterrorism official. Americans and others from the West have traveled to Syria over the past year to join al Nusra Front's fight against the Syrian government. The fear is that fighters with a U.S. or Western passport — and therefore subject to less stringent security screening — could carry such a bomb onto an American plane.

Al-Qaida's affiliate in Yemen, called al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, long has been fixated on bringing down airplanes with hidden explosives. It was behind failed and thwarted plots involving suicide bombers with explosives designed to hide inside underwear and explosives hidden inside printer cartridges shipped on cargo planes.

It wasn't clear which airports were affected by the extra security measures, but industry data show that more than 250 foreign airports offer nonstop service to the U.S., including Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport, Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport and the United Arab Emirates' Dubai International Airport.

The call for increased security was not connected to Iraq or the recent violence there, said a second U.S. counterterrorism official who was not authorized to speak publicly by name. Another U.S. official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the increased security measures had nothing to do with the upcoming July Fourth holiday or any specific threat.

The extra security is out of an "abundance of caution," the U.S. official said.

Meanwhile, the State Department has instructed U.S. Embassy employees in Algeria to avoid U.S.-owned or operated hotels through July 4 and the Algerian Independence Day on July 5.

"As of June 2014 an unspecified terrorist group may have been considering attacks in Algiers, possibly in the vicinity of a U.S.-branded hotel," according to the message from the U.S. Embassy in Algeria.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki did not provide details about the reasons for the increased security.

"I would say broadly speaking that the threat of foreign fighters is a concern that we share with many counterparts in the world, whether that's European or others in the Western world, where we've seen an increase in foreign fighters who have traveled to Syria and other countries in the region and returning," Psaki said. "And so we have been discussing a range of steps we can take in a coordinated fashion for some time." □

A thumbs-up for NSA Internet spying on foreigners

KEN DILANIAN

AP Intelligence Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Endorsement of the NSA's Internet surveillance programs by a bipartisan privacy board deeply disappointed civil liberties activists Wednesday while providing a measure of vindication for beleaguered U.S. intelligence officials.

James Clapper, director of national intelligence, welcomed the conclusion by the independent Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board that the National Security Agency's Internet spying on foreign targets in the U.S. has been legal, effective and subject to rigorous oversight to protect the rights of Americans.

Activist groups panned the report as a dud.

It was a dizzying turnabout for a privacy board that in January drew criticism in the other direction for branding the NSA's collection of domestic calling records unconstitutional.

As they unanimously adopted their 190-page report on Wednesday, the five board members — all appointed by President Barack Obama — sought to explain their largely favorable conclusions about surveillance programs that have provoked worldwide outrage since former NSA systems administrator Edward Snowden revealed them last year.

At issue is a spying regime, first definitively disclosed in Snowden documents last year, under which the NSA is using court orders to obtain foreign customers' emails, chats, videos and texts from Google, Facebook and other U.S. tech companies under a program known as PRISM. The documents also showed that the agency is intercepting foreign data as it transits fiber optic lines in the U.S.

Yahoo, Apple, Microsoft, Twitter and Facebook did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Google and LinkedIn declined to comment.

The reputations of American technology companies have suffered abroad

over the perception that they cannot protect customer data from U.S. spy agencies. Last week, the German government said it would end a contract with Verizon over concerns about network security.

European and other foreign intelligence agencies routinely demand cooperation from their national companies, U.S. officials say, but those operations have not been leaked to the news media.

The targets of the surveillance the U.S. privacy board was looking at this time must be foreigners living abroad, but the NSA also collects some American communications —

either by mistake, or because the Americans were talking to or about foreign targets. The programs come under Section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, which legalized programs launched after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Last week, the Obama administration disclosed for the first time that it targeted nearly 90,000 people or groups under the



Photo shows the National Security Agency (NSA) campus in Fort Meade, Md. The latest study of the bipartisan Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board takes the opposite view of a different set of National Security Agency surveillance programs revealed last year by former NSA systems administrator Edward Snowden. The board which was to vote on the report on Wednesday, July 2, 2014, found that the NSA's collection of Internet data within the United States passes constitutional muster and employs "reasonable" safeguards designed to protect the rights of Americans. Last January, the first time the board dissected an NSA surveillance program, it found fundamental flaws.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

programs last year. There are 2.4 billion Internet users worldwide. In January, the privacy board criticized a

different program authorized under Section 215 of the Patriot Act, through which the NSA had been

collecting billions of American telephone records and searching through them in terrorism investigations. □



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US Army: Bergdahl venturing out in public

JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was a prisoner of war in Afghanistan for five years, has been allowed to venture off the Texas military base where he is receiving care as part of his "reintegration process" into society, a U.S. Army spokeswoman said Wednesday. Bergdahl has been allowed to go, with supervision, to a grocery store, restaurants, shopping centers and a library as part of the process of getting him comfortable with being out in public,

Army spokeswoman Arwen Consaul said. Bergdahl, 28, has been receiving care at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio since returning to the United States on June 13. He initially was being treated at Brooke Army Medical Center at the fort but was shifted last week to outpatient care at the military base. The Idaho native was freed by the Taliban May 31 in a deal struck by the Obama administration in which five senior Taliban officials were released from detention at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Bergdahl had disappeared

from his post in Paktika province in eastern Afghanistan on June 30, 2009. Some former members of his unit have said that he left of his own accord. He has not commented publicly on the circumstances of his disappearance, and the Army has made no charges against him. The Army has said it is investigating Bergdahl's disappearance and capture, but that investigators will not interview him until those helping him recover say it is all right to do so. Bergdahl's "reintegration process" has slowly in-

creased his exposure to social settings and groups of people, giving him "a little bit more every day," Consaul said. It began with going to facilities at Fort Sam Houston, including the commissary and the gym. It has since progressed to going into San Antonio and visiting various businesses. On these visits, Bergdahl is accompanied by members of his reintegration team, including a psychologist. The process is about "getting (Bergdahl) comfortable with being out in public and interacting with

large groups of people," Consaul said. It is unknown if Bergdahl's family has seen him since his return to the United States. Consaul said because of a request by Bergdahl's family for privacy, the Army cannot comment on this. Other people who have been held in captivity and that the military base has worked with in the past have gone through similar interactions as part of their reintegration, Consaul said. No time has been set for when Bergdahl's reintegration process will finish, she said. □

STORM WATCH

Continued from Front

Other areas of the Outer Banks were taking a cautious, but still-optimistic approach: No evacuations had been ordered for areas north of Hatteras, including the popular town of Kill Devil Hills, which was the site of the Wright brothers' first controlled, powered airplane flights in December 1903.

Tourism officials expect about 250,000 people to visit the Outer Banks and stay in hotels and rental homes for the long holiday weekend.

"We want everybody to be safe and prepared, but we are not overly concerned at this point," said Lee Nettles, the executive director the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau. He noted that forecasters were predicting the storm would



This satellite image released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), shows the center of Tropical Storm Arthur off the east coast of Florida. With the July Fourth weekend on the horizon, the Atlantic hurricane season's first named storm plodded off Florida's coast early Wednesday, though Tropical Storm Arthur wasn't yet spooking too many in the storm's potential path.

(AP Photo/NOAA)

move fast and be less severe than others in locals' memories. Stores saw runs on generators, lanterns and flashlights, but even some workers weren't yet concerned. "I've been through Irene. I went through Isabelle," said Bill Motley, who works

at Ace Hardware in Nags Head has lived on the Outer Banks for 13 years. "I'm not even worried about this one. I'm more worried about my tomato plants. With the wind coming, if we get a 50-mph gust, it will knock over my tomato plants."

Nancy Janitz, 60, of Jacksonville, North Carolina, said she was ready, thanks to technology.

"I have my NOAA radio, and I keep tabs on Twitter and Facebook for updates," she said. "I'm as prepared as I can possibly be."

Still, Gov. Pat McCrory declared a state of emergency for 25 coastal and adjoining counties and advised residents and visitors alike to let caution be their guide.

"Don't put your stupid hat on," he said, as he urged surfers and swimmers not to get in the water regardless of how good the waves might be.

"Our major goal is to ensure that no lives are lost during this upcoming storm," including those of emergency workers, McCrory said. On Wednesday afternoon, Arthur was about 220 miles (355 kilometers) south of Charleston and moving

north about 7 mph (11 kph) with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (95 kph). The National Hurricane Center predicted it would grow to a Category 1 hurricane with sustained winds of at least 74 mph either late Wednesday or sometime Thursday.

The forecast did not call for a landfall in the U.S., but officials and travelers north to New England kept an eye on the storm's projected path. Many areas warned of upcoming rain, wind and potential rip tides.

The worst of the storm should occur at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, about dawn Friday, with 3 to 5 inches of rain and sustained winds up to 85 mph, said Tony Saavedra, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service. But forecasters said that by later Friday, the effects of Arthur would be past the Outer Banks, with the rest of the weekend salvaged. □

Aid from Massachusetts in New Hampshire race

MICHAEL PAULSON

© 2014 New York Times

STRATHAM, N.H. - It was a bit of an odd tableau: a former Massachusetts governor endorsing a former Massachusetts senator to represent the people of New Hampshire in the U.S. Senate.

But as Scott Brown wages a campaign to become one of only a few individuals to win election to the Senate from more than one state, he turned Wednesday for help to the man whose support has aided him at several important junctures in his political career: Mitt Romney.

On a day so hot that Romney began talking about global warming, Brown, who just declared New Hampshire his official residence seven months ago, told the former governor, "It's good to have you back in New Hampshire. You have a lot of friends in our state, and I'm proud to be one of them."

Romney, in endorsing his fellow Republican's candidacy, bemoaned the state of the economy and America's place in the world during the Obama presidency, and praised Brown as "someone who I know well, a terrific American, an independent voice, an independent thinker."

He contrasted Brown with the senator he is seeking to unseat, Jeanne Shaheen, a Democrat whom both Romney and Brown repeatedly derided as an unquestioning supporter of President Barack Obama. The rally, held at Scamman's Bittersweet Farm just days before the Fourth of July, was staged in front of a picturesque white barn draped with an enormous American flag. Brown was played in and out with a song, "Pride of America," recorded by his daughter, Ayla, a onetime "American Idol" contestant. A Boy Scout troop grilled hot dogs; a veteran led the Pledge of Allegiance; and voters donned 2012 Romney/Ryan gear, as well as 2014 Brown stickers, for the festivities. At one point during the rally, a plane flew

overhead towing a banner that read "Go Scott Go," prompting the crowd to chant those words.

Brown's supporters repeatedly praised him as independent - a treasured trait in a swing state whose motto is "Live Free or Die." In interviews, several people at the rally expressed hostility toward Obama, and said they wished Romney had won the 2012 election; they said they were not concerned about Brown's recent move to the state, noting the porousness of the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border and the many people who move from one state to the other. "He has an aptitude to work with the opposition - he's not a strident Tea Party politician," said Paul Clark, 80, of Nashua, a Brown campaign volunteer. And Rory Pelley of Auburn said: "I'm a moderate Republican, so I think moderate Republicans are great. I'm tired of the extremes."

Brown, with sweat dripping off his brow and soaking through his button-down shirt, used the 91-degree



Scott Brown speaks former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney in Stratham, N.H., July 2, 2014. As Brown wages a Senate campaign in New Hampshire, the former Massachusetts senator has turned for help to Romney, whose support has aided him at several crucial junctures in his political career. Brown's family are at left.

(Ian Thomas Jansen-Lonnquist/The New York Times)

weather as a symbol, saying "the heat is nothing like Senator Shaheen is going to feel in November."

He and his supporters made it clear that their main line of attack would be to tie Shaheen to Obama. Brown said, "She's a very nice person, she is just not the independent voice that she promised to be."

A former New Hampshire governor, John Sununu, who attended the rally, made the point more sharply, saying in an interview, "She has bought completely into the Obama agenda." Shaheen's campaign spokesman, Harrell Kirstein, defended her voting record, saying, "Jeanne Sha-

heen puts New Hampshire first, and she does what she thinks is right for people here."

Meanwhile, the Democratic Party organizations in New Hampshire and Massachusetts joined forces to ridicule the fact that both Romney and Brown spent the bulk of their adult lives in Massachusetts. □

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Target asking US customers to leave firearms at home

A. D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Retail giant Target is “respectfully” asking its customers to not bring firearms into its stores, even where it is allowed by law.

In a statement posted Wednesday on the retailer's corporate blog, interim CEO John Mulligan said that Target wants a “safe and inviting” atmosphere for its shoppers and employees.

“This is a complicated issue, but it boils down to a simple belief: Bringing firearms to Target creates an environment that is at odds with the family-friendly shopping and work experience we strive to create,” he said. In many states, carrying unconcealed guns in public is legal.

Target Corp. made the announcement as it faced pressure about its policy on the “open carry” of firearms in its stores. A group called Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America gathered nearly 400,000 signatures for a petition asking Target to prohibit shoppers from carrying guns into its stores.

The group has said it is responsible for getting several chains, including Chipotle, Starbucks and Jack in the Box, to make similar moves. It introduced the campaign after gun rights groups carrying loaded rifles frequently gathered in Target stores including Texas, Alabama and North Carolina to demonstrate in support of “open carry” laws.

Molly Snyder, a Target spokesman, said that Target's move is a “request and not a prohibition.” □

Yellen sees little threat to financial stability

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said Wednesday that she doesn't see a need for the Fed to start raising interest rates to defuse the risk that extremely

earlier in the decade.

Yellen acknowledged that financial stability risks “escalated to a dangerous level in the mid-2000s” and that policy-makers overlooked the vulnerabilities in the financial system that would make the sub-

warned that the central bank could be setting the stage for another dangerous bubble by keeping rates so low for so long.

In her speech, Yellen said she didn't see dangerous excesses in the financial system. She said that there

a “reach for yield” without properly assessing the risks of possible defaults. But Yellen said regulators had the tools to address rising risks in specific areas.

In a discussion after her speech with IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde, Yellen said that she viewed regulatory efforts as the “main line of defense” to deal with threats to the stability of the financial system. She said regulators in the United States and around the globe were focusing on tightening standards in such areas as requiring increased levels of capital that banks must hold to cushion against future shocks.

Yellen said she had not taken the Fed's control over interest rates totally off the table as a tool to deal with financial stability issues but that it was important to recognize the limitations interest-rate policies had.

She said that there were a number of areas that regulators were monitoring such as the growth of the so-called shadow banking system. In 2007 and 2008, risk-taking in a corner of shadow banking known as subprime mortgages spread to other areas of the system and eventually pushed the country into the worst recession since the Great Depression.

The Fed and other bank regulators have developed “a very active monitoring system to try to be on the lookout for the next crisis,” Yellen said.

Her comments Wednesday were in line with remarks she made at a news conference after the Fed's June 17-18 meeting. □



International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde, left, has a conversation with Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen at the IMF in Washington, Wednesday, July 2, 2014. Yellen said she doesn't see a need for the Fed to start raising interest rates to address the risk that extremely low rates could destabilize the financial system.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

low rates could destabilize the financial system.

Yellen said she does see “pockets” of increased risk-taking. But she said those threats could be addressed through greater use of regulatory tools. Many of those tools, such as higher capital standards for banks, were put in place after the 2008 financial crisis, which triggered the Great Recession.

In her remarks at a conference sponsored by the International Monetary Fund, Yellen disputed criticism that the Fed had contributed to the 2008 crisis by keeping rates too low

sequent decline in home prices so destabilizing. She included herself in this group of policymakers.

“Policymakers failed to anticipate that the reversal of the house price bubble would trigger the most significant financial crisis in the United States since the Great Depression,” Yellen said.

She said the government has made progress since then in closing the regulatory gaps that allowed the financial crisis to erupt.

Yellen spoke one day after the Dow Jones industrial average set a record for the stock market. Some critics of Fed policies have

were isolated areas of increased risk taking but that those could be dealt with through regulatory changes rather than by raising rates. “Fed Chair Janet Yellen does not sound like she is inclined to use monetary policy to lean against potential excesses in the financial markets except as a last resort,” Dana Saporita, an economist at Credit Suisse, said in a research note.

Yellen specifically mentioned that demand for a certain type of corporate bond commonly called junk bonds is rising. She said this suggests that investors are buying those bonds in

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US Financial Front:

Over 30 states trail US as a whole in job recovery

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five years after the Great Recession officially ended, most states still haven't regained all the jobs they lost, even though the nation as a whole has.

In May, the overall economy finally recovered all 9 million jobs that vanished in the worst downturn since the 1930s. Another month of solid hiring is expected in the U.S. jobs report for June that will be released Thursday.

Yet 32 states still have fewer jobs than when the recession began in December 2007 — evidence of the unevenness and persistently slow pace of the recovery. Even though economists declared the recession over in June 2009, Illinois is still down 184,000 jobs from pre-recession levels. New Jersey is down 147,000. Both states were hurt by layoffs at factories. Florida is down 170,000 in the aftermath of its real estate market collapse.

The sluggish job market could weigh on voters in some key states when they go to the polls this fall. A Quinnipiac University poll out Wednesday found that voters named the economy by far the biggest problem facing the United States.

The states where hiring lags the most tend to be those that were hit most painfully by the recession: They lost so many jobs that they've struggled to replace them all.

Nevada, which suffered a spectacular real estate bust and four years of double-digit unemployment — has fared worst. It has 6 percent fewer jobs than it

did in December 2007. Arizona, also slammed by the housing collapse, is 5 percent short.

By contrast, an energy boom has lifted several states to the top of job creation rankings.

"North Dakota is the No. 1 example," says Dan White, senior economist at Moody's Analytics. "It's like its own little gold rush."

North Dakota has added 100,000 jobs since December 2007 — a stunning 28 percent increase, by far the nation's highest. The state has benefited from technology that allows energy companies to extract oil from shale, sedimentary rock formed by the compression of clay and silt.

Not surprisingly, the capital of North Dakota, Bismarck, has the lowest unemployment rate of any American city: 2.2 percent as of May. Mark and Valerie Luna and their eight children had been struggling in Arizona when they heard on television about North Dakota's prosperity and decided to move there in 2010.

"It was becoming like the Great Depression in Arizona," Valerie Luna said. "We were tired of seeing our friends lose their houses and their businesses."

Mark, 40, a laid-off electrician, and Valerie, 37, a corrections officer, immediately found work in North Dakota. He took a job as an electrician, she at an insurance company.

But Mark always had a dream of opening a Mexican restaurant, and Bismarck was ripe for one. Los Lunas Authentic Mexican Food opened last year.

On Wednesday, Mark Luna was busy in the kitchen and had no time for talking. Or-



An oil truck sits in a dirt lot near a new housing development in Watford City, N.D. The housing development is part of the town's growth explosion from the Bakken oil boom. Due to the energy boom in North Dakota, the state has added 100,000 jobs since December 2007 — a stunning 28 percent increase, by far the nation's highest. North Dakota has benefited from technology that allows energy companies to extract oil from shale, sedimentary rock formed by the compression of clay and silt.

(AP Photo/Martha Irvine)

ders for his homemade tamales, chimichangas, enchiladas were stacking up. "Business," he said, "is good. Real good."

Another state benefiting from the energy boom is Texas, which has added more than 1 million jobs since December 2007, an increase of nearly 10 percent. For comparison, the nation as a whole has added only a net 113,000 jobs over that period.

Jobs in Washington D.C., where lobbying is an all but recession-proof occupation, are up 49,000, or 7 percent. The gain was led by a 10 percent increase in hiring by private employers.

Wall Street's recovery from the financial crisis has helped New York gain 237,000 jobs since the recession ended, an increase of nearly 3 percent. Moody's White says many states are struggling because the recession wiped

out solid middle-class jobs — in manufacturing and construction — that haven't returned. He says it

will take a stronger housing recovery to put significantly more people back to work building houses. □

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James Patterson, others debate Amazon.com

BY HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For a discussion titled "Amazon: Business as Usual?" panelists at the New York Public Library cited Winston Churchill, Thomas Jefferson and the Stamp Act of 1765. Questions were raised about the future of democracy, the manners of Silicon Valley and the consequences of religious war.

This is clearly no ordinary time in publishing.

"What's at stake is writing," best-selling novelist James Patterson said Tuesday night at a gathering before some 150 people, many from the publishing world. "It's our livelihood. It's the livelihood of our friends."

As Amazon and Hachette Book Group remain in a standoff over issues such as revenues from e-book sales, with the online retailer restricting access to books by Patterson, Malcolm Gladwell and other Hachette authors, literary agent Tina Bennett moderated an often passionate 90-minute exchange among Patterson and five other speakers. They included publisher Morgan Entekin of Atlantic Monthly Press, the author and net neutrality advocate Tim Wu, political theorist Danielle Allen and attorney and founder of the music download service EMusic.com, Bob Kohn.

Sympathies, both onstage and in the audience, were strongly with the publisher and traditional publishing. Panelists worried about Amazon's growing power and that its determination to lower prices would put competitors out of business and force publishers to cut royalties, making it harder for authors to work on their books. Bennett said the negotiations between Hachette and Amazon "could change our business forever," and likened her situation to sitting in a hospital waiting room while a loved one was being operated on.

Amazon has provided few comments on the conflict with Hachette and, ac-



This photo shows author James Patterson at the Second Annual Quill Awards in New York. Patterson was a panelist for "Amazon: Business as Usual?" a discussion at the New York Public Library. (AP Photo/Stephen Chernin)

cording to Bennett, declined an invitation to send an official to the library Tuesday. Standing in for the Seattle-based company was David Vandagriff, an intellectual property attorney who on his blog earlier in the day had wondered if he was the only panelist not subject to "Amazon Derangement Syndrome." Entekin and others spoke of publishers as indispensable patrons of literary culture, investing in books that sometimes take years to complete and taking on authors who aren't profitable, but have something important to say. "They could make more money just publishing the kind of junk I write," Patterson joked. Vandagriff advocated for authors (including his wife, G.G. Vandagriff) who broke from the industry and published through Amazon, saying they had more control and received much higher royalties. Patterson worried that Amazon was a danger to free expression, even invoking the image of burning books. Vandagriff praised Amazon as an innovator dedicated to its customers.

"What do the people who work at Amazon think of when they get up and in the morning?" said Vandagriff, who on his blog earlier in the day had wondered if he was the only panelist not subject to "Amazon Derangement Syndrome." "They are entirely, completely focused on pleasing and delighting the millions of people who shop there."

A few groans were heard in the auditorium. Fellow speakers onstage responded.

"Are you talking about the warehouses, or the corporate headquarters?" said Patterson, referring to numerous reports that Amazon's warehouse employees endured harsh conditions.

"Jeff Bezos, when he goes to work every day, his job is a different job," Kohn said of Amazon's founder and CEO. "His job is to win a winner-take-all game."

Publishers fret even in the duller moments, and Bennett asked each panelist to rank the current climate on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 business as usual and 5 a five-alarm emergency. □

Q&A ON THE NEWS

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Q: After O.J. Simpson was found not guilty, I heard he threw a party for the jurors on a private yacht. Do you have any information about that?

-- Frank Williams, Lavonia, Ga.

A: Several jurors were seen at a party at Simpson's estate to celebrate the "not guilty" verdict that ended his 1995 trial for murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson. Several jury members appeared on TV, granted interviews and wrote books about the trial, according to "The O.J. Simpson Trials: Rhetoric, Media, and the Law." The jurors were sequestered at Intercontinental Hotel in Los Angeles from Jan. 11 until after their verdict was delivered on Oct. 3, 1995.

Q: There's a terrorist group that is sometimes called ISIS. Other times, it's called ISIL. Why the difference?

-- Fred Scanling, Big Canoe, Ga.

A: The United Nations, the U.S. State Department and the Associated Press, which sets the rules and style for many media outlets, refer to the Sunni extremists as ISIL, short for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. The Levant is an English term used to describe the area that stretches from southern Turkey through Syria to Egypt (which includes Lebanon, Israel, the Palestinian territories and Jordan), according to the AP.

The Washington Post, The New York Times, the BBC and CNN, among others, use ISIS, short for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. The group's official name is Al-Dawla al-Islamiya fi al-Iraq wa al-Sham, with the acronym DAISH, but it's not used by the English-language media.

Much of the confusion is caused by the word "al-Sham," which is an old Arabic term for Damascus and the surrounding area, but has come to "denote the area between the Mediterranean and the Euphrates, south of the Taurus Mountains and north of the Arabian desert," The New York Times reported.

Sometimes al-Sham is translated as Greater Syria, but using "Iraq and Syria suggests incorrectly that the group's aspirations are limited to these two present-day countries," the AP reported. "We believe (ISIL) is the most accurate translation of the group's name and reflects its aspirations to rule over a broad swath of the Middle East," John Daniszewski, AP vice president, said on a blog.

Q: It's been reported that an eagle's nest can weigh up to two tons. This was in reference to the eagles nesting at Berry College, just north of Rome, Georgia. How can a nest weigh this much?

-- John Timpe, Johns Creek, Ga.

A: Bald eagles add material to their nests every year and the heaviest nest "on record" weighed almost 3 tons, Georgia Department of Natural Resources non-game program manager Jim Ozier told Q-and-A on the News in an email. "But most, including the Berry nest, are far less, probably a few hundred pounds," he wrote.

Bald eagle nests can grow to 10-15 feet tall, but the height and weight of the nest depends on the sturdiness of the tree or structure where its located. "I have seen a few in Georgia that were more than 10 feet tall, and I suspect they weighed more than a ton," Ozier wrote. "The nest at Berry will never get that large because the structure of the tree crown is not suitable." The Berry College eagles can be viewed at georgiawildlife.com/BerryEagleCam. □

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Foreign ministers agree on Ukraine cease-fire path

FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Foreign ministers from Russia, Ukraine, Germany and France agreed Wednesday on a series of steps for a resumption of the cease-fire in eastern Ukraine where fighting between government troops and pro-Russia separatists has taken more than 400 lives since April. The steps include reopening talks no later than Saturday "with the goal of reaching an unconditional and mutually agreed sustainable cease-fire" to be monitored by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, their declaration said.

Fighting in eastern Ukraine has increased since a much-violated 10-day cease-fire expired late Monday. Four Ukrainian troops were killed as government forces carried out more than 100 attacks on rebel positions, a military official said. Russia supported the proposal to give Ukrainian border guards and OSCE representatives access to Russian territory to take part in controlling two border crossings once the cease-fire is in place, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said after the talks in Berlin. Border posts have become a key issue because Ukraine and the United States say military equipment and reinforcements are flowing across the border from Russia. Moscow denies arming the rebels and describes Russian citizens fighting with them as volunteers.

Asked whether Russia has any influence over the rebels, Lavrov said that "we have possibilities to influence those who defend their families, their soil

and their territory." Lavrov stressed that Russia would not allow the cease-fire to

be used to give the military time to regroup and bring in reinforcements, as the

separatists accused the troops of doing during the previous cease-fire.

The ministers' declaration specifically states that the cease-fire negotiations will be handled by the so-called contact group, something Russia has insisted upon. The group, which already has held two rounds of peace talks, includes Ukrainians trusted by Russia, the Russian ambassador and separatist leaders. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier expressed hope that the group would meet before Saturday, calling it "a first and an important step." It wasn't clear where the meeting would take place. Ukraine's foreign minister, Pavlo Klimkin, blamed the failure of the previous cease-fire on the separatists and said that "to have a sustainable cessation of violence we have to act together." □



Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin, right, talks to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, second from left, as they leave the German Foreign Ministry for dinner together in Berlin, Wednesday, July 2, 2014. The foreign ministers from Germany, France, Ukraine and Russia meet in Berlin to keep searching for a way to de-escalate the conflict in Ukraine.

(AP Photo/Markus Schreiber)

Militants try to tighten their grip in Iraq, Syria

RYAN LUCAS
ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Fresh from success in Iraq, a Sunni extremist group tried to tighten its hold Wednesday on territory in Syria and crush pockets of resistance on land straddling the border where it has declared the foundation of an Islamic state. Embattled Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki warned that the entire region is endangered by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, whose gunmen have rampaged across his country in recent weeks. Facing pressure to step aside, al-Maliki said the focus must be on countering the threat — not wholesale leadership changes. The militant group has fed off the chaos and super-

charged sectarian atmosphere of Syria's civil war to seize control of a large chunk of territory there. With its recent blitz across Iraq, it has expanded its gains while also effectively erasing the border between the two countries and laying the groundwork of its proto-state.

Led by an ambitious Iraqi militant known as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the group this week unilaterally declared the establishment of an Islamic state, or caliphate, in the land it has seized. It also proclaimed al-Baghdadi the head of its new self-styled state governed by Shariah law and demanded that all Muslims pledge allegiance to him.

Its assault in Iraq appears to have slowed after sweeping across the predominantly Sunni Arab areas

and encountering stiff resistance in Shiite-majority regions. But in Syria, al-Baghdadi's group has forged ahead with an offensive against towns and villages held by rival rebels along the Euphrates River in the eastern province bordering Iraq.

Militants stormed houses in the frontier town of Boukamal, rounding up people suspected of opposing them, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The extremist group captured Boukamal on Tuesday, after fighters from the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front defected.

Al-Baghdadi's fighters also were battling rival factions at the northern entrance to the nearby town of Sheheil, a Nusra Front stronghold, forcing thousands of resi-

dents to flee.

The group — which has changed its name simply to the Islamic State — is reviled by most Syrian rebel groups, and many of them have been locked in a bloody six-month battle with it across northern Syria that has killed more than 7,000 people.

A few smaller rebel factions have pledged loyalty to al-Baghdadi's organization out of fear or convenience, but most factions in Syria oppose it.

On Wednesday, nine Syrian rebel groups, including a powerful coalition called the Islamic Front, rejected al-Baghdadi's declaration of a caliphate. In a statement posted on Islamic websites, they said the declaration was "void" and pledged to continue the fight. □

With Seoul visit, China leader sends message north

FOSTER KLUG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

Xi Jinping's first visit to the Korean Peninsula as China's president is to Seoul, not Pyongyang, meaning that North Korea's best friend has snubbed it for its most bitter rival. A flurry of recent rocket and missile tests, the latest on Wednesday, has made the North's displeasure crystal clear.

Xi's choice to meet Thursday with South Korean President Park Geun-hye over North Korean leader Kim Jong Un upends past practice — ever since Beijing and Seoul forged diplomatic ties in 1992 — to make Pyongyang first. It highlights Beijing's interest in nurturing booming economic ties with Seoul, while sending Pyongyang a message about its destabilizing pursuit of nuclear weapons.

For Washington and the region, it also underlines China's growing influence on the southern side of the Korean Demilitarized Zone. Beijing, entangled in hostile territorial disputes across Asia, may see an opportunity to boost its influence

with the rare neighbor that feels generally positive about China.

"In some ways the budding closeness between Xi and Park echoes much older patterns in East Asia, when China exercised a

In the week before Xi's visit, North Korea fired seven short-range projectiles, including two launched Wednesday into waters off its east coast. Analysts said they are a message of anger directed at Xi's choice

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang urged reporters not to "over-read" Xi's decision to visit South Korea before the North. But many in China see the visit as not only a remarkable departure

year and Xi's decision to send Park birthday wishes earlier this year.

Money has long been the focus of the relationship between China, the world's second-largest economy, and South Korea, the fourth-biggest economy in Asia.

They are in talks on a bilateral free trade agreement. China is South Korea's largest trading partner, and Seoul says two-way trade topped \$220 billion last year. That's larger than the combined value of South Korea's trade with the United States and Japan.

"In economics, the relationship is as good as it gets," the Korea Times said in an editorial this week.

There's also a shared distaste for Japan's more assertive military ambitions, and for what Beijing and Seoul see as an attempt by Tokyo to obscure its brutal history in both countries in the last century.

Managing security matters, and more specifically North Korea's pursuit of nuclear bombs and the long-range missiles to carry them, has always been trickier.

China is seen as having unusual leverage with hard-to-read North Korea and is often pressed to do more to force change. They fought together in the 1950-53 Korean War against the United States, South Korea and their allies. More recently, North Korea has repeatedly looked to China for diplomatic cover when the United Nations has taken up North Korean nuclear and missile tests and its much-criticized human rights record.

Analysts don't think Xi will abandon North Korea entirely as long as Seoul remains loyal to an alliance with Washington that has shielded the South from North Korean aggression and allowed it to build its impressive economy. China also worries that too much pressure on Pyongyang could cause a North Korean collapse that would push swarms of refugees over the countries' shared border.



Conservative activists shout during a rally welcoming Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to South Korea, near the Chinese Embassy in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, July 2, 2014. Xi's first visit to the Korean Peninsula as China's president is to Seoul, not Pyongyang, meaning that North Korea's best friend has snubbed it for its most bitter rival. A flurry of recent rocket and missile tests, the latest on Wednesday, has made the North's displeasure crystal clear. The writing on the cards reads "Welcome. Visit to South Korea."
(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

relatively benign hegemony over many of its neighbors," said John Delury, an expert on China and Korea at Seoul's Yonsei University.

of Seoul over Pyongyang. The two-day summit will be Park's fifth meeting with Xi since she took office early last year.

from the past, but also a sign of a budding friendship between the leaders. Much has been made of Park's visit to Beijing last

Palestinians say Israeli extremists killed teen

JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) —

The Palestinians accused Israeli extremists of abducting and killing an Arab teenager and burning his body Wednesday, sparking hours of clashes in east Jerusalem and drawing charges that the youth was murdered to avenge the killings of three kidnapped Israeli teens. Seeking to calm the explosive situation, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged a swift inquiry into the "reprehensible murder" and called on people to respect the rule of law. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said it was clear extremist Jewish settlers were responsible and called on Israel to bring the killers to justice.

"The settlers have killed and burned a little boy. They are well known," Ab-

bas said, accusing Israel of tolerating settler violence toward Palestinians. "I demand that the Israeli government hold the killers accountable." The death added to the already heightened tensions caused by the killings of the three Israeli teenagers, whose bodies were discovered Monday just over two weeks after they disappeared in the West Bank. Israel accused Hamas, the Islamic militant group that controls Gaza, of being behind the abductions, which led to the largest ground operation in the West Bank in nearly a decade, with Israel arresting hundreds of Hamas operatives as part of a broad manhunt. The discovery of the bodies led to a national outpouring of grief, with tens of thousands of people attending a funeral Tuesday in which the teens were laid to rest

side-by-side. As the burial took place, hundreds of young, right-wing Israelis marched through downtown Jerusalem screaming for revenge. Hours later, relatives of Mohammed Abu Khdeir said the 17-year-old was forced into a car in a neighborhood of east Jerusalem that quickly sped off. A burned body believed to be his was found shortly afterward in a Jerusalem forest, though police said late Wednesday they were still awaiting forensics tests to make a positive identification. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said authorities were looking at "a number of different directions" in the killing, including nationalistic or criminal motives. "We are waiting for the final results of the autopsy," he said.

But Abu Khdeir's family said they had no doubt about the killers, accusing

extremist Israelis of killing him to avenge the deaths of the Israeli teenagers.

"Who else could do this? There's no one else," said the teen's father, Saed Abu Khdeir. He said he spent the day with police and gave DNA samples to help identify the body.

As of Wednesday evening, police said the testing was still ongoing. Police were also reviewing security camera footage taken from the scene. Relatives said the video showed a car nearing the youth, people stepping out and forcing him into the vehicle and speeding away.

The family of one of the Israeli teens condemned the death of the Palestinian youth. "There is no difference between (Arab) blood and (Jewish) blood. Murder is murder," said Yis-hai Fraenkel, an uncle of one of the teens.



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Company defends Canadian executive in Cuba graft case

PETER ORSI
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The company and family of a Canadian business executive awaiting a court ruling in Cuba defended him against accusations of graft, arguing that what were in fact "legitimate commercial transactions" were wrongly characterized as corrupt at trial.

A two-page statement sent to The Associated Press by the Tokmakjian Group also complained that company president Cy Tokmakjian's trial, which ended June 21, was unfairly stacked against him.

It said he was held without charge for two years while the results of the investigation were kept secret, and then given just two months to present a defense. Meanwhile 14 of 18 proposed defense witnesses, including international tax experts, were rejected by the court without explanation.

"We are concerned that the outcome of the trial is predetermined given the reluctance by the Cuban authorities to rectify gross procedural mistakes," the statement said.

Prosecutors are seeking 15 years for Tokmakjian and 8 to 20 for more than a dozen others named as defendants. They include two more Canadians as well as Cuban employees of the company, government officials and workers at state-run businesses.

On Monday, Communist Party newspaper Granma said Tokmakjian was accused of corruption to obtain benefits in contract negotiations, unauthorized financial transactions, illegally taking large amounts of money out of the country, falsifying documents to avoid taxes and payroll irregularities. A ruling is expected soon.

Tokmakjian is among a number of foreigners and dozens of Cubans arrested in 2011 as part of a high-profile crackdown on graft that targeted multiple businesses operating in the country.

Another Canadian, Sarkis Yacoubian of Tri-Star Caribbean, was sentenced to nine years in 2013 but freed earlier this year and allowed to return home.

Saro Khatchadourian, a spokesman for Canada's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Consular, said Ottawa is monitoring its citizens' legal cases in Cuba and providing them with consular services, but declined to comment further. Canada's ambassador to Havana attended Tokmakjian's trial.

Cuban officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday.

The statement from the Tokmakjian Group, an international transportation company based in Concord, Ontario, questioned why an individual was being held liable for a corporate tax issue, and said any claims were purely commercial and should have been handled in arbitration rather than a criminal court.

"A simple and objective reading of recent court decisions will lead to the conclusion that what is shown as 'corruption' is internationally accepted business practices," it said. □

Iran looking to solar to light future

ALI AKBAR DAREINI
Associated Press

SICHANLOO, Iran (AP) — In this village nestled in the arid hills of rural Iran, government-subsidized solar panels on the rooftops of homes provide both needed electricity and a shining symbol of efforts by the Islamic Republic to wean

cheaper than bottled mineral water, a push toward self-sustaining solar power could help the government save money and bolster its sanctions-battered economy.

"A big change is in the making in Iran," said Saman Mirhadi, a senior government official in charge

Rouhani's administration, however, sees a bright future in solar, spending \$60 million this year on solar projects compared to just \$12 million last year. It especially wants to target rural communities largely cut off from government services across the country. In Sichanloo, a hamlet 200 ki-



A man climbs a ladder to reach the rooftop where solar panels are set up, in Sichanloo, a hamlet 200 kilometers (125 miles) northwest of the capital, Tehran, Iran. In this village nestled in the arid hills of rural Iran, the government-subsidized solar panels on the rooftops of homes here provide both needed electricity and a shining symbol of efforts by the Islamic Republic to wean itself off fossil fuels and nuclear power. (AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi)

itself off fossil fuels and nuclear power.

President Hassan Rouhani's government has quintupled its spending on solar power projects in the last year, taking advantage of Iran's 300-odd days of sunshine a year that make its vast sun-kissed lands one of the best spots on earth to host solar panels. While being good for the environment, the panels also offer rural Iran steady power amid uncertainty over the country's contested nuclear program as it negotiates with world powers. And as the Islamic Republic cuts back on subsidies that once made gasoline

of solar projects.

Iran, home to some 77 million people, is a fossil-fuel powerhouse, even in the crude-oil rich Middle East. It is home to both the world's fourth-largest proven oil reserves and massive natural gas reserves.

However, sanctions have cut into the country's refining and production capabilities. Iran's economy also has faltered, while the country's push for nuclear energy has come under scrutiny over Western fears the Islamic Republic could use its program to build atomic bombs. Iran has said its program is for peaceful purposes.

lometers (125 miles) northwest of the capital Tehran, the seven families who live here once relied on gasoline-fueled generators for electricity.

Now, more than two dozen solar panels shine from nearby rooftops. With the flip of a switch, electricity stored in truck-sized batteries from the solar panels lights up the home of Habibollah Kakavand, the father of one of the village's families. "In the past, we used gasoline-fueled power generators to meet our electricity needs in the absence of a grid network. It needed fuel plus maintenance, which was costly. □

US-born banda singers find success in Mexico, US

OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Banda music is the soundtrack of modern Mexico, with its thumping polka beat and trumpets blasting everywhere from rural fairs to working-class Mexico City weddings. And it's increasingly made in the U.S.A.

Once the equivalent of country music, with lyrics about rural life sung by men from Mexico's western badlands,

it is more and more being produced in the suburbs of Phoenix and Los Angeles, and sung by Mexican-Americans who grew up speaking English and listening to rock and rap.

And as U.S.-born singers gain prominence, it's becoming more akin to gangster rap, with a slicker sound, lyrics that praise drug traffickers and videos with guns and expensive cars filmed on Los Angeles' palm-lined streets.

This month, two U.S.-born banda singers have had Top 10 hits in Mexico and the United States.

Billboard's No. 1 Mexican regional song is "Quien Se Anima," or "Who Will Dare," a tune by baby-faced, 24-year-old Pasadena, California-native Gerardo Ortiz that asks who will dare enter a business where "there is lots of money, pleasures, banda

music and women."

Ortiz's "Damaso," about a leader of the Sinaloa drug cartel, has for weeks topped the playlists in Mexico. Its video, with a lion, briefcases full of cash and

Young Mexican-Americans have embraced banda and many musicians now first gain success in the United States before heading south to sing in dirt-floored rodeo arenas and auditori-

many of Mexico's top drug traffickers.

But it was upon his return to Southern California that he found fame and fortune after self-promoting his ballads and "narcocorridos"



Gerardo Ortiz performs in front of fans during a concert at the Ventura County Fairgrounds on in Ventura, Calif. Ortiz spent his childhood in the Pacific coast state of Sinaloa, the birthplace of both banda music and many of Mexico's top drug traffickers. But it was upon his return to Southern California that he found fame and fortune after self-promoting his ballads and "narcocorridos" on YouTube.

(Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP)

flaunted pistols, has been viewed on YouTube more than 61 million times.

"The King of the Drunks" by Lupillo Rivera of Long Beach, California, has also been among Mexico's top 10 songs.

It is a reversal of musical direction for a genre in which Mexican bands traditionally sang tunes popular with immigrants in the U.S. nostalgic for their homeland.

ums in Mexico.

"These singers were born (in the U.S.) but their parents instilled the love for Mexico in them,"

said Stephanie Himonidis, morning prime-time DJ for La Raza, a Los Angeles radio station that plays Mexican music.

Ortiz spent his childhood in the Pacific coast state of Sinaloa, the birthplace of both banda music and

on YouTube. "Narcocorridos" are songs about drug traffickers that often glorify them and their lifestyle.

A record executive offered Ortiz a contract after seeing him perform at an underground party at a packed Los Angeles warehouse in 2008.

"I grew up on a ranch but when I came back to Los Angeles, a big city where there is all kinds of music.□

Study: Caribbean reefs need parrotfish, sea urchins

DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Colorful parrotfish and spindly sea urchins are the key to saving the Caribbean's coral reefs, which may disappear in two decades if no action is taken, a report by several international organizations said Wednesday.

The report, which analyzed the work of 90 experts over three years, said Caribbean reefs have declined by more than 50 percent since the 1970s. It said that while many experts have blamed climate change for the problem, a drop in the populations of parrotfish and sea urchins is largely responsible.

Parrotfish and sea urchins feed off seaweed, and a drop in their numbers has led to an increase in seaweed, which smothers coral reefs, Jeremy Jackson, lead author of the report, said. "The situation is truly horrific in the sense that you have all these places that are desperately overfished," Jackson said in a phone interview from Australia. He said the main culprits in reef degradation are overfishing, coastal degradation and diseases introduced to the region.

"Climate change for me so far is 10 percent of the story," said Jackson, a senior adviser with the Swiss-based International Union for Conservation of Nature, which issued the report with the United Nations Environment Program and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network.

Mark Eakin, coral reef watch coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said the report understates the impact of ocean warming.

"It's something that I would say they overlook in their studies," said Eakin, who contributed to the report but was not directly involved in it. "We really need to deal with climate change."□

Mayor Ford: he's used "every drug" you can think of

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Toronto Mayor Rob Ford said Wednesday he's used "every drug you can probably think of" and blamed substance abuse for the racist and homophobic language he's used.

Ford returned to work this week after a two-month stay in rehab for drugs and alcohol. The mayor of Canada's largest city said he's used cocaine, marijuana and hallucinogenic mushrooms, but not heroin. He acknowledged he smoked crack but denied he was a crack addict. He said he drank at City Hall, but nev-

er did drugs at work.

"You name it, I've abused it," he said.

Ford refused to say whether he'd resign if he falls of the wagon again. Asked if that was good enough for the people of Toronto, Ford said it would be up to them to decide in the Oct. 27 election.

"I'm taking it one day at a time. I did not drink yesterday, I haven't drunk today," Ford said.

Ford made the remarks in interviews with the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. and CP24. He returned to City Hall earlier this week and gave a statement but refused to take questions.

The mayor announced in late April that he would seek help for alcohol addiction after a video surfaced that apparently showed him smoking crack cocaine. Reports last year of a similar video led to months of denials before Ford made his statement about smoking crack in a "drunken stupor."

His reign as mayor has been marred by revelations about his drinking problems and illegal drug use. Toronto's City Council stripped Ford of most of his powers last year.

Ford has been repeatedly videotaped and photographed while intoxicated

in public and he has made racist and homophobic remarks that were caught on tape. Ford blamed his disease for the remarks. "I can't even imagine using that terminology," he said. Ford said he won't be resigning to deal with his substance abuse issues. "I love my job and keeping busy is the best thing for me," he said. He said he's been abusing drugs and alcohol for years and said his job is not what drove him to abuse substances.

"I was ruining my health. I couldn't function day to day. I was ruining my family and my job as mayor," he said. □



**Celebrating
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Ling & Sons Introduces the Fresh Juice and Coffee Corner!



ORANJESTAD - Ling & Sons, the number 1 supermarket here on Aruba, held the official Grand Opening of their new fresh juice and coffee corner on Sunday, June 29, to much fanfare! Everybody is welcome to come and try their fabulous variety of hot coffees and iced coffees, courtesy of Smit and Dorlas. Fresh-squeezed juices and sandwiches are made right on sight at Ling and Sons Supermarket.

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The Fresh Juice and Coffee Corner is located right at the entrance of Ling & Sons, with comfortable and spacious seating. The Fresh Juice and Coffee Corner at Ling & Sons is open 7 days-a week from 8am-6pm. Attractive prices and friendly staff always await you at the Fresh Juice and Coffee Corner! Don't forget to pay a visit to Ling & Sons and the Fresh Juice and Coffee Corner, every day of the week!

Always fresh and with a good ambience, the Fresh Juice and Coffee Corner welcomes you!

For more information visit the website www.lingandsons.com, or visit their Facebook page [Lingandsons](https://www.facebook.com/Lingandsons), Grand Opening of Ling & Sons Fresh Juice and Coffee Corner. □



At the Casino at the Radisson;

Join the Spin-To-Win 4th of July Slot Tournament!



PALM BEACH - A fun activity is scheduled for the 4th of July at the Casino at the Radisson, namely a Spin-To-Win Slot Tournament. Patrons are requested to sign up at 5pm, and the tournament starts at 6pm.

Signing up is easy, with a \$10 buy-in, and a \$4 re-buy. The tournament promises to award prizes to the Most Cheerful Participant, and the Most Patriotic Participant, in honor of America's Independence Day. A

Special Rookie of the Night award will be bestowed on an enthusiastic novice, cheered on by Red, White and Blue Jello shots!

Additionally, the casino bar is all set up for the transmission of FIFA World Cup 2014 soccer games, in the comfort of the air-conditioning, supported by a fully stocked bar and kitchen.

In the photos, repeat guest David Fair, collects a \$1,600 jackpot after playing one of his favorite Double Diamond slot machines, and Graziela Castillo Sabino Grecco, who hit the Lightning Jackpot! Graziela, visiting from Sao Paulo Brazil, staying at the RIU Palace, won \$1,305 which made her vacation on Aruba more fun than ever, reports Caroly Croes, Casino Sales and Marketing Hostess. □



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



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THURSDAY**
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becomes a total
caribbean experience



The Caribbean Festival:
Aruba's Carnival experience
every week of the year!

Most visitors don't have the opportunity to experience Aruba's cultural highlight of the year—Carnival (or, as we call it here, Carnaval). But now you can discover the colorful spirit of Aruba's Carnival every Thursday evening at the Caribbean Festival. Situated on the island's southern tip in the heart of San Nicolas where Caribbean and Aruban cultures meet, the Caribbean Festival brings Carnival to life with live Calypso and Soca music, a parade of glittery dancers showcasing many of our past Carnival's gorgeous costumes, festive brass bands, stilt walkers, handi-crafts, and traditional homemade cuisine of the Caribbean region.

We encourage you to spend an evening with the locals, and enjoy a taste of our culture at the Caribbean Festival. It's also a great family or group activity!

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Package includes:

- Round-trip transportation from your hotel
- Entrance to the festival
- Dinner and beverages
- Entertainment – Carnival show, live music, and more
- A commemorative carnival mask

Price : \$64 per person, \$32 children 12 years and under.
Where : Main-Street San Nicolas
When : Thursdays from 6 pm to 10 pm

Information: visit your guest services desk in your hotel for more information and tickets.

The Caribbean Festival is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, Transportation, Primary Sector and Culture. Operated by the Caribbean Foundation.



Aruba Says 'Masha Danki' To Loyal Visitors of The Divi Village



DRUIF BEACH - Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring devoted visitors as 'Distinguished Visitors' of Aruba.

The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for a number of consecutive years. A so called 'Distinguished Visitor Honoring' is for loyal visitor who visit the destination between 10-to-19 times and those who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years are being honored with the 'Goodwill Ambassador Honoring'.

Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Gloria Defoe, honored loyal members of the Divi Village with a well-deserved 'Distinguished Visitors' certificate.

Mr. Malcolm and Mrs.



Jayne Sibson are residents of Leicester, England, and they say that Aruba feels like a second home to them. They have been visiting the island for the past several years with much devotion and warm feelings.

The reasons they gave for returning to the island in-

cluded the warm inviting sun, the gracious treatment from everyone, the absolute feeling of safety everywhere/anytime, the unending selection of restaurants, and the abundance of shopping from flea markets to elegance. Congratulations to the Malcolm and Jayne! □

BONUS



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Baltimore Orioles' Nelson Cruz reels back from a pitch against the Texas Rangers during the third inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, July 1, 2014, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

Cheaters, liars and baseball All-Stars

TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

Barry Bonds is getting a second chance, hardly surprising because baseball is a game of second chances.

Seven years after the San Francisco Giants decided his services would no longer be needed, a group of U.S. judges will reconsider Bonds' conviction for giving evasive testimony to a grand jury investigating doping. It may not be as good as a ticket to the Hall of Fame, but a win by Bonds would mean he can live the rest of his days without convicted felon being written in front of his name.

Manny Ramirez is doing even better. He's getting a third chance.

Twice suspended by Major League Baseball for violating its doping rules, the 42-year-old has been signed by the Triple-A Iowa Cubs as a part-time player and coach.

Continued on Page 21

Murray misery

Dimitrov takes down Wimbledon champ

Page 18



Andy Murray of Britain reacts as a serve by against Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria goes past him during their men's singles quarterfinal match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Wednesday, July 2, 2014.

Associated Press

No Wimbledon repeat for Murray, beaten by Dimitrov

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — The silence at Centre Court made abundantly clear that Andy Murray's time as Wimbledon champion was coming to a close.

Out of sorts from the start of his quarterfinal against up-and-coming Grigor Dimitrov on Wednesday, Murray — who in 2013 ended Britain's 77-year wait for one of its own to win the men's title at the All England Club — sailed an awkward backhand slice long to fall behind by a set and a break.

The crowd of nearly 15,000, usually so vociferous in support of Murray, sat quietly, perhaps not prepared to believe what was happening. All along, Murray's body language was as negative as his play: He gnawed on his knuckle after seeing an ace zip past; slapped his forehead with his palm after one forehand found the net; bowed his head and slumped his shoulders after another did the same.

When one last forehand fell short, the magical ride ended for Murray and his fans with a 6-1, 7-6 (4), 6-2 loss to the 11th-seeded Dimitrov, who became the first man from Bulgaria to reach a



Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria watches this return to Andy Murray of Britain during their men's singles quarterfinal match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Wednesday, July 2, 2014.

Grand Slam semifinal.

"I have very good memories from that court out there.

It's a special court for me," said Murray, who lost the 2012 Wimbledon final there, won that year's London Olympics gold medal there, then won his historic title 12 months ago there. "I mean, you can have bad days as an athlete. You don't win all of the time. Sometimes you just have

to take it on the chin and move on."

He hadn't lost a set in his first four matches, but made 37 unforced errors Wednesday, more than twice as many as Dimitrov.

"Even when I wanted to get into longer rallies, I was missing shots," the third-seeded Murray said. "I was unable to make him work as hard as I needed to."

Dimitrov was composed throughout, getting bro-

ken only once and showing off the all-court game and smooth, one-handed backhand that long ago earned him the nickname "Baby Fed" — as in seven-time Wimbledon champion Roger Federer.

On Friday, Dimitrov takes on another past champ, top-seeded Novak Djokovic, who returned to the semifinals for the fifth consecutive year by coming back to beat No. 26 Marin Cilic

of Croatia 6-1, 3-6, 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-2.

"Novak really played terrific the last two sets," said three-time Wimbledon winner Boris Becker, who's coaching Djokovic. "That was the first real test for him."

Djokovic was troubled by Cilic, to be sure, but also by repeated slips that prompted the Serb to change his shoes midway through the match. Playing on No. 1 Court, Djokovic also was rattled by intermittent cheering from outside the arena for Murray, whose match was played simultaneously across the way.

"I said to the chair umpire: 'Let's just stop (our) match, put (theirs) live on the big screen, and let's watch it 'til they're done,'" recounted Djokovic, last year's runner-up to Murray.

On the other half of the draw, Federer will face No. 8 Milos Raonic, the first Canadian man in a Grand Slam semifinal since 1923.

Federer was broken for the first time in the tournament, and dropped a set for the first time, too, but defeated Australian Open champion Stan Wawrinka 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4, 6-4 in a matchup between a pair of pals from Switzerland.

Associated Press

Obama praises U.S. men's soccer team in phone calls

JOSH LEDERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama commended the U.S. men's soccer team Wednesday for making their country proud in the World Cup tournament in Brazil, during an Oval Office phone call with two of the team's most celebrated players.

Obama called goalkeeper Tim Howard and team captain Clint Dempsey the day after the U.S. team came tantalizingly close to victory before being knocked out of the competition by Belgium. Praising Howard and Dempsey for their leadership and the team's performance, Obama said this

year was the first time the U.S. team had the entire nation truly focused on the contest.

"You guys did us proud," Obama said in a video released by the White House. "To see the way you guys captured the hearts and the imaginations of the whole country is unbelievable."

He joked that Howard, whose 16 saves captivated soccer fans worldwide, will have to shave his beard before returning to the U.S. to evade the mobs enthralled by his performance. He invited the team to return to the White House soon and asked Howard and

Dempsey to convey his congratulations to their coach and teammates.

"I know it's disappointing," Obama said of the 2-1 loss Tuesday. "But what you guys accomplished is really, really significant."

Obama has been following the World Cup closely. He watched last week's U.S.-Germany match from Air Force One and chanted "I believe!" while watching the Belgium match with White House aides.

Accolades for Howard have been pouring in from the highest level of government, including from Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, whose Wikipedia entry



President Barack Obama chants "I believe we will win" as he drops by to watch the U.S. vs. Belgium World Cup soccer game with White House staff members at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House grounds in Washington, Tuesday, July 1, 2014.

Associated Press

was temporarily changed as a joke to show Howard as the new Pentagon chief. Rear Adm. John Kirby, a Pentagon spokesman, said Hagel invited the entire U.S.

team to visit the Pentagon. "He told Howard that with some training, he could someday become the real secretary of defense," Kirby said.

Baseball All-Stars

Continued from Page 17

The plan is for him — please, don't laugh — to serve as a mentor to aspiring Cubbies on how the game should be played in the major leagues.

"Do the right thing, bro. Follow the rules. That's it," Ramirez said on Monday, somehow keeping a straight face when asked what advice he will give young players.

Nelson Cruz should have followed that advice and stayed out of trouble himself. Like Ramirez, though, he couldn't stay away from the drugs that for a quarter century now have infested the game and made its most revered numbers meaningless.

That cost Cruz the final 50 regular-season games for the Texas Rangers last year, though the Baltimore Orioles didn't seem to mind. They signed Cruz to an \$8 million, one-year deal in spring training and he has rewarded their investment by hitting 26 home runs, tied with Jose Abreu of the Chicago White Sox for the lead in the American League.

Cruz also is the runaway leader in balloting for des-



Milwaukee Brewers Ryan Braun celebrates in the dugout after scoring on a sacrifice fly by Jonathan Lucroy during third inning interleague baseball action against the Toronto Blue Jays in Toronto on Wednesday July 2, 2014.

Associated Press

ignated hitter in the All-Star game with some 3 million votes, even more proof that MLB fans are truly a forgiving lot. Less than a half season after finishing his suspension for juicing, Cruz has been officially rehabilitated and will surely be cheered when he comes to the plate in Minneapolis just like he has been in Baltimore since he was welcomed to the city

on opening day.

That fans don't seem to have a problem with a player recently busted for doping being held up as a shining example of what a big league slugger should be is hardly new. Giants fans packed AT&T Park game after game when Bonds was chasing home run records, roaring at every swing even when it was painfully obvious the bloated

Bonds was doing things normal human beings simply can't do.

For all anyone knows, Cruz could still be using. So could a lot of other players, because even with increased — and more sophisticated — testing in MLB, the odds of being caught are still small. And the suspensions in the Biogenesis scandal show that a lot of players are still more than willing to take the chance, mostly because the payoff can be so huge.

Thankfully, we will be spared the sight of Cruz bashing balls out of Target Field in the Home Run Derby. He told the Baltimore Sun recently he wouldn't compete in it because it might hurt his swing, though the guess is someone from MLB whispered into his ear that it wouldn't be a good idea for more obvious reasons. We can also be thankful Ryan Braun has suddenly lost his home run power and likely won't be an All-Star pick either. The admitted liar and cheat who plays for the Milwaukee Brewers has only five home runs since April 20, yet is still fifth among outfielders in All-Star voting.

More than 2.5 million fans have voted for Braun to be in the All-Star Game, even

more than the 1.9 million ballots cast for another cheater, Melky Cabrera of the Toronto Blue Jays, who is in fourth place among American League outfielders. They've sent the message that the teams who keep shelling out millions for tainted players already have: As long as you say "I'm sorry," everything is forgiven. Whether judges in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals are as forgiving with Bonds is anyone's guess. They tend to take lying more seriously than baseball fans, especially when the lying is done not to sports writers but a U.S. grand jury.

But it may be by now fans are simply numb to steroid use, and accept cheating as part of the game. Or it could be that so many fans have quit MLB in disgust that the only ones left are willing to suspend belief for anything. They're content to keep spending their money on an uneven playing field, as long as it's their player hitting the home runs. They're happy to vote for them for the All-Star game no matter how much they cheat and lie.

And they're a big part of the reason MLB is becoming an increasingly marginalized league. □



In this April 6, 2011, file photo, Barry Bonds leaves a federal courthouse during his perjury trial in San Francisco.

Associated Press

Bucks owners admit errors made in luring Kidd

ANDREW WAGNER

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — New Bucks owners Marc Lasry and Wes Edens admit there may have been errors in how Jason Kidd was lured to coach Milwaukee. That doesn't mean they aren't happy to have him. "Our one goal is to hire people to run it, that know what they're doing," Edens said. "Jason is someone I've admired as a player. He did a great job managing the Nets this year and we think he's the best young coaching talent in basketball." Kidd, who was formally introduced on Wednesday at the BMO Harris Bradley Center, said there were no hard feelings over his abrupt and surprising departure from Brooklyn, where he won 44 games and reached the second round of the NBA playoffs as a first-year head coach. Kidd dismissed the suggestion that he left after being turned down in seeking control of the Nets' basketball operations department. And he said he had no plans to seek a similar role in Milwaukee, where general manager John Hammond is under contract through



Newly named Milwaukee Bucks head coach Jason Kidd, left, leaves a press conference behind Bucks co-owners Wesley Edens, right, and Marc Lasry, Wednesday, July 2, 2014, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

the 2015-16 season. "They are not true," Kidd said. "It's not about power. You guys ran with that. It's not about power. As I was introduced, I'm the coach." Brooklyn agreed on Monday to deal Kidd to Milwaukee for second-round draft picks in 2015 and 2019. The Bucks fired Larry Drew, who had no indication he wouldn't be back for a second season. The whole affair was messy and played out in the media for days before the deal was announced, overshadowing the positive buzz surrounding the Bucks' selec-

tion of University of Duke star Jabari Parker with the No. 2 overall draft pick.

Lasry said it was wrong to not bring Hammond into the loop earlier in the process, which began last week when the owners sought permission from the Nets to speak with Kidd. Lasry and Kidd are friends.

"We were asked to keep it confidential," Lasry said.

"In retrospect, that was a mistake. I would tell you that it was very much newness. We've learned a lot in this process. Our view, and it hasn't changed from the beginning, is that all the basketball operations go through John. In this process, we learned we made a mistake." Lasry and Edens said once the initial discussion took place and news leaked out, Hammond took over the negotiation with Nets GM Billy King.

Kidd didn't offer much explanation of his reasoning for taking the job in Milwaukee, where he inherits a team that finished a league-worst 15-67 a year ago but adds Parker to a group that includes 19-year-old Giannis Antetokounpo of Greece, forward John Henson and center Larry Sanders. □



In this May 15, 2013 file photo, Memphis Grizzlies coach Lionel Hollins watches during the first half of Game 5 against the Oklahoma City Thunder in an NBA basketball playoffs Western Conference semifinal, in Oklahoma City.

Associated Press

Nets reach agreement with Hollins to become coach

NEW YORK (AP) — The Brooklyn Nets say they have reached an agreement in principle with Lionel Hollins to become their coach, moving quickly after the departure of Jason Kidd.

The deal with the former Memphis Grizzlies coach comes just two days after they made a trade with Milwaukee to allow Kidd

out of his contract so the Bucks could hire him.

The Nets then met with Hollins on Monday and Tuesday before agreeing to the deal on Wednesday. Terms were not disclosed.

Hollins led Memphis to the 2013 Western Conference finals before he and the Grizzlies parted ways. The Nets considered him last year before hiring Kidd. □

Hammon scores 18 to lead Stars past Sun, 74-71



San Antonio Stars' Becky Hammon, right, drives to the basket as Connecticut Sun's Chiney Ogwumike, left, defends during the second half of a WNBA basketball game, Tuesday, July 1, 2014, in Uncasville, Conn. San Antonio won 74-71.

Associated Press

UNCASVILLE, Connecticut (AP) — Becky Hammon scored 18 points and Danielle Robinson had 17 to help the San Antonio Stars beat the Connecticut Sun 74-71 on Tuesday for their fifth straight road win.

WNBA Capsules

Kayla McBride added 15 points for the Stars (9-8), and Robinson also had seven assists and three steals. Katie Douglas scored 25 points and Kelsey Bone had 12 points and 14 rebounds for the Sun (8-9).

Connecticut trailed 55-43 with 1:07 left in the third quarter before rallying to tie the score 61-all with 2:42 to go in the fourth.

Jayne Appel answered with a layup on the other end for the Stars.

The Sun were called for a

shot-clock violation on their next possession with Renee Montgomery having to heave up a desperation shot after getting trapped above 3-point line.

McBride made a 3-pointer on the other end to push San Antonio's edge to 66-61 with 1:45 remaining.

LIBERTY 90, SHOCK 74

NEW YORK (AP) — Tina Charles scored a season-high 28 points and Cappie Pondexter added 21 to lead New York to its third win in four games.

Charles, who also had 14 rebounds, had 20 points in the first half before Pondexter took over for the Liberty (6-11).

Tulsa (6-10) trailed by 11 points at the half before Skylar Diggins rallied the Shock to 62-58 with 36.5

seconds in the third quarter.

The Liberty then scored the next 10 points to put the game away.

Pondexter had an acrobatic three-point play where she flipped the ball over her head and was fouled.

On the next possession Sugar Rodgers followed with her own three-point play that made it 72-58.

Tulsa could only get within 11 the rest of the way. Diggins finished with 23 points, including 20 in the second half.

FEVER 77, DREAM 70

ATLANTA (AP) — Karima Christmas scored 18 points to lead Indiana to its second win in Atlanta this season.

Sydney Carter added 11

points — all in the second half — against her former team for the Fever (7-9). Carter, who was briefly with the Dream last season, scored a career-high 14 points when the Fever won 82-77 in overtime in Atlanta on May 25.

Erika de Souza scored 23 points for the Dream (11-5), who lost for just the second time in nine home games this season.

Atlanta leading scorer Angel McCoughtry added 17 points on 6-for-18 shooting. The Dream were 0 for 13 on 3-point attempts.

SKY 90, SPARKS 83

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jamierra Faulkner scored a season-high 27 points and Epiphanny Prince had 15 to help Chicago beat Los Angeles. □

Review: Android Wear is about simplifying future

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In its first iteration, Google's Android Wear software for computerized wristwatches isn't so much about innovation as it is an effort at simplification.

Available in two smartwatches out within the next week, Android Wear is rather limited in what it can do. Even last year's smartwatches do some things that Android Wear can't. But the new software should help rein in a marketplace of confusion and encourage app developers to extend smartwatch functionality, the way they have made smartphones even smarter.

In previous watches, each manufacturer modified Android in a different way, so software developers have had to spend a lot of time customizing their apps. It's typically not worth the

bother because no single watch has enough users. To confound the problem, Samsung's second-generation smartwatch, out in April, doesn't use Android at all, but rather a fledgling system called Tizen.

With Android Wear, software developers won't have to rewrite apps every time a new watch from Samsung, Sony or another manufacturer comes out. And collectively, there might be enough smartwatch users to lure developers.

In fact, developers should have an easier time with Android Wear than Android phones. Phone manufacturers had customized Android so much that apps sometimes didn't work. Android on phones felt like dozens of different operating systems. With smartwatches, manufacturers will pretty much take the software Google gives

them and limit customization to hardware, choices of watch face and apps that come pre-installed.

I'll have more to say on the first two watches, Samsung's \$199 Gear Live and LG's \$229 G Watch, in a separate review later. I used both to test Android Wear, and this review is about that.

Android Wear requires a companion smartphone running Android 4.3 or later. That covers Kit Kat and the later versions of Jelly Bean, but according to Google's own stats, only about a quarter of Android devices have either. For a variety of reasons, many recent phones can't be upgraded. And of course, no iPhones.

The companion phone doesn't have to be from the same manufacturer as the watch. With both watches, I was able to use Motorola's Moto G phone



In this June 25, 2014, file photo, a man looks at the Samsung Gear Live, an Android Wear smartwatch, on the demo floor at Google I/O 2014 in San Francisco.
Associated Press

from November, Samsung's Galaxy S III phone from 2012 and LG's G3, which is coming to the U.S. this summer.

After getting or updating some free apps on your phone, you need to link the watch and the phone wirelessly using Bluetooth.

Most of your interactions with the watch are by voice, similar to using Google Now on Android phones and Siri on iPhones. You can scroll through a short menu of functions, but it's primarily there as suggestions and isn't comprehensive. To activate the voice function, just tap on the watch face or say "OK, Google." You can ask the watch to set an alarm, check your calendar or send a reminder.

You can't use the watch as a speakerphone for calls, the way previous Samsung smartwatches allowed. But you can make calls or answer ones that come in. The call still goes through the phone, but that's not a problem if you have a Bluetooth headset.

You can send texts by dictating a message or using canned ones such as "Yes," "No," or "On my way." You can't add your own prewritten response, the way you can on Samsung's previous watches. Android Wear also lets you send and receive emails and read Facebook notifications. I sent myself a draft of this story and was able to read all of it on the watch. If you prefer using the phone, there's a button you can tap to have the message automatically open there.

The watches can also keep track of your daily steps, and Samsung's has a heart rate monitor. These tasks and the clock functions are about all you can do without the phone nearby. Where Android Wear advances smartwatch technology is in navigation. As long as the phone is nearby, you can get turn-by-turn directions on the watch. While walking down the street, you can look at your wrist and avoid having to constantly pull the phone out of your pocket. Sony's SmartWatch 2 has a maps app, but it doesn't work as well as Google's. Beyond that, the watch offers the types of notifications you'd get through Google Now on the phone, if you've turned that feature on. That includes local weather, birthday reminders and scores for your favorite sports teams. While jogging to work Tuesday morning, Android Wear even offered nearby bus stops in case I wanted to cheat.

Of course, I can simply pull out my phone for all that. Android Wear is supposed to make your life better by displaying relevant information on your wrist, rather than in your pocket.

But you still need the phone nearby, and the voice recognition feature doesn't always hear me correctly. Android Wear isn't quite there yet as a must-have product, but I can only imagine what it will evolve into in the months and years ahead. It helps that there's now a unified system that software developers can focus on improving. □

UK investigating Facebook over psych experiment

DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British data protection authorities are investigating revelations that Facebook conducted a psychological experiment on its users.

The Information Commissioner's Office said Wednesday that it wants to learn more about the circumstances of the experiment carried out by two U.S. universities and the social network.

The commissioner's office is working with authorities in Ireland, where Facebook has headquarters for its European operations. French authorities are also reviewing the matter.

The researchers manipulated the news feeds of about 700,000 randomly selected users to study the impact of "emotional contagion," or how emotional states are transferred to others. The researchers said the evidence showed that emotional contagion occurs without direct interaction between people



In this June 11, 2014 photo, a man walks past a Facebook sign in an office on the Facebook campus in Menlo Park, Calif.

Associated Press

and "in the complete absence of nonverbal cues." Facebook acknowledged that the research was done for a single week in 2012.

The survey provoked an outcry on social media sites and sparked essays in media outlets including The New York Times and The Atlantic about the ethics of manipulating users' feeds without their consent. Facebook's chief operating officer, Sheryl Sandberg, told television network NDTV in India that "we clearly communicat-

ed really badly about this and that we really regret." Later she added: "Facebook has apologized and certainly we never want to do anything that upsets users."

Facebook's data use policy says the company can use user information for "internal operations, including troubleshooting, data analysis, testing, research and service improvement." The concern over the experiment comes amid interest in Europe about beefing up data protection rules. □

Stocks close at all-time highs as hiring surges

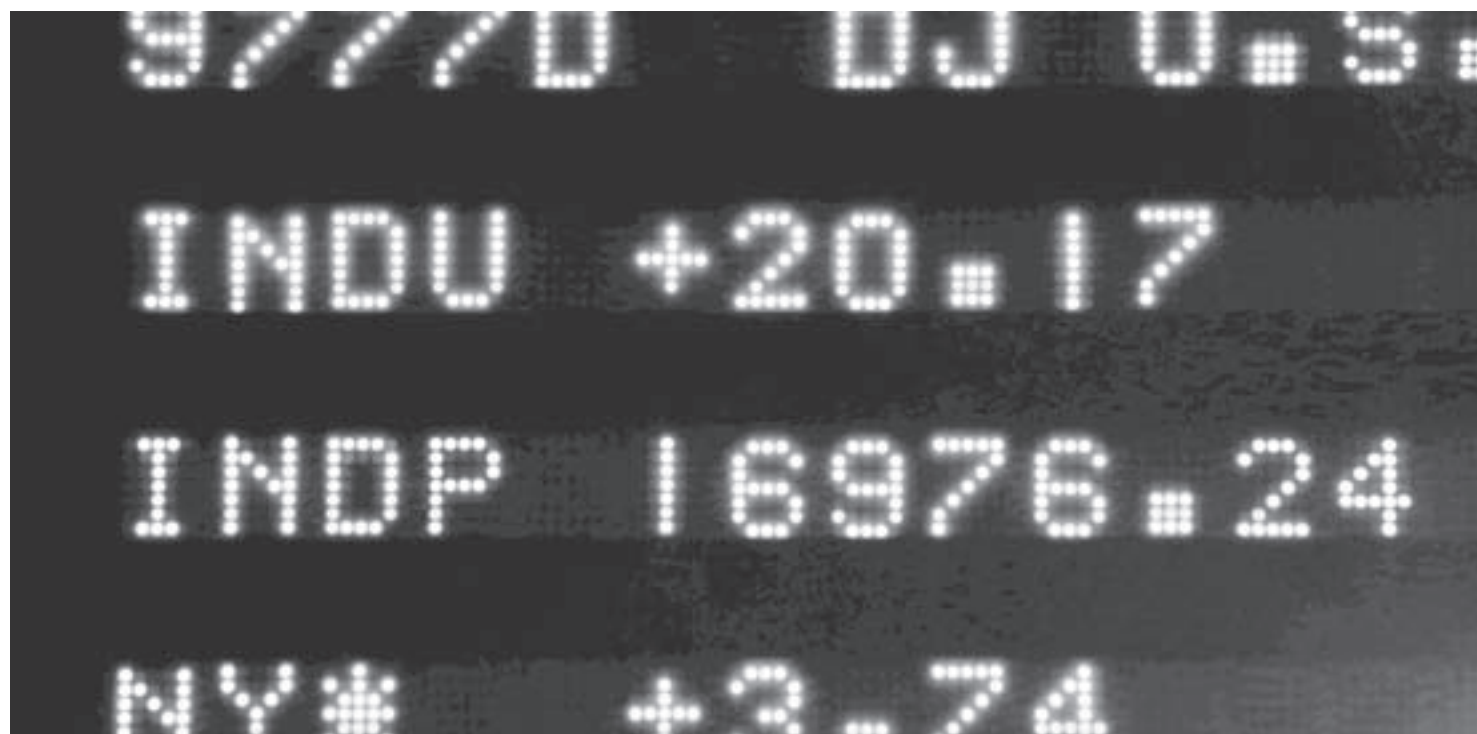
STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks closed at their latest all-time highs Wednesday following news that business hiring surged in June, adding to evidence that the U.S. economy is picking up momentum. ADP, a payroll processor, said businesses added 281,000 jobs last month, up from 179,000 in the previous month. The figure suggests

recovery, but there's still a lot of room to go," said Ed Hyland, a global investment specialist at a JPMorgan Private Bank. "We believe that for the stock market as well." The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 1.30 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,974.62. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 20.17 points, or 0.1 percent, to 16,976.24. Both the S&P 500 and the Dow are at all-time highs.

The stock dropped \$2.07, or 5.1 percent, to \$38.24 after the company said that growth in a key revenue figure slowed in June. Delta said revenue per passenger fell on international routes because of a dip in business travel to Latin America during the World Cup soccer tournament and more passenger-carrying capacity among all airlines. Delta's stock is still up 38 percent this year.

stock market. Utilities fell the most of the 10 sectors that make up the S&P 500, declining almost 2 percent. Investors had bought utility stocks at the start of the year as bond yields dropped because they pay rich dividends. Should the economy continue to improve and bond yields rise, investors will likely start to take money from the bond market and instead invest in stocks, said



A board at the New York Stock Exchange shows the closing number for the Dow Jones industrial average, Wednesday, July 2, 2014. Stocks held at record levels Wednesday following a report that business hiring surged in June, a promising sign for economic growth. The report comes a day after news of stronger manufacturing in the U.S. and China helped push the stock market to another all-time high.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

the government's monthly jobs report, due out Thursday, could also show a significant gain from May. The stock market climbed back to record levels a day earlier after separate reports showed that manufacturing expanded in China and the U.S., the world's two largest economies. "We're in the middle of what's been an extended

The Nasdaq composite fell one point, less than 0.1 percent, to 4,457.73. Constellation Brands, which makes Corona and Negra Modelo beer, was one of the day's biggest gainers. The stock jumped \$2.07, or 2.3 percent, to \$90.45 after the company said its fiscal first-quarter net income soared. Delta Air Lines was the day's biggest decliner.

Government bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.62 percent from 2.57 percent on Tuesday. The yield on the note, which rises as prices fall, has climbed from 2.45 percent at the end of May as signs have emerged that the economy is strengthening. The impact of rising bond yields was also felt in the

Jeff Knight, head of global asset allocation at Columbia Management, an asset manager. Stocks that should benefit most from an improving economy, such as industrials, should do well. "Those sectors that tend to be thought of in yield and income terms, like utilities or telecoms, would be laggards," said Knight.

Brynwood Partners buys Juicy Juice from Nestle

GREENWICH, Conn. (AP) — A private equity fund has purchased the Juicy Juice brand from Nestle USA. Financial terms were not disclosed. The buyer is Brynwood Partners VII LP which said Wednesday that it plans to leverage the 37-year-old brand's nutritional attributes and make chang-

es to its packaging. Juicy Juice is in the 100 percent juice category. Brynwood Partners said that Juicy Juice was acquired by its newly created portfolio company, Harvest Hill Beverage Co., which will be based in Stamford, Connecticut. This is Brynwood Partners' third acquisition from Nestle

USA in the past 14 months, with others including Joseph's Gourmet Pasta Co. Pearson Candy Co., a portfolio company of Brynwood Partners VI, bought the Bit-O-Honey brand from Nestle USA last year. Brynwood Partners has an established presence in the food sector, with previous investments includ-

ing Balance Bar Co., Lincoln Snacks Co., Signature Snacks Co., DeMet's Candy Co., Sun Country Foods Inc. and Richelieu Foods Inc. Brynwood Partners has completed six acquisitions with Nestle USA in total. The company has acquired 41 corporate brands from 15 different companies in its 30-year history.

STREET BRIEFS

ING's insurance arm now trading as the NN Group

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The insurance arm of Dutch financial firm ING has begun trading as the independent company NN Group, effectively completing ING's split into a bank and an insurance company, as required by EU authorities. ING raised around 2 billion euros (\$2.7 billion) by selling a 28.6 percent stake in NN Group, mostly in Wednesday's public offering. Shares were sold at 20 euros each and NN Group's stock traded 8.3 percent higher at 21.66 by midday. NN Group becomes a mid-sized European insurance company, with a market capitalization of around 7.5 billion euros.

The European Commission ordered ING to split in compensation for needing a 10 billion-euro bailout from the Dutch state in 2008. ING is using proceeds to cut debt and plans to sell off its NN Group stake by 2016.

Oil sees declines, despite bullish oil inventory data

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of oil slipped Wednesday despite a report from the U.S. Department of Energy that showed stockpiles of crude fell more than expected last week. Benchmark U.S. crude for August delivery fell 86 cents to \$104.48 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, its fifth day of declines.

The contract closed at a 10-month high of \$107.26 on June 20. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, fell \$1.05 to \$111.24 a barrel in London. The Energy Department said U.S. crude oil stockpiles fell by 3.2 million barrels last week to 384.9 million barrels. Analysts had expected a drop of 1.7 million barrels. Oil quickly rose on the news, but sold off as the afternoon progressed.

Deal creating top German mobile company gets OK

JUERGEN BAETZ
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — In a deal that creates Germany's biggest mobile phone company in terms of customers, the European Union's antitrust authority on Wednesday approved network operator Telefonica's bid to buy its competitor E-Plus under certain conditions.

The move comes as analysts argue Europe's fragmented telecommunications sector needs consolidation to shoulder the investments needed for faster networks and to offset losses from the EU's crackdown on lucrative surcharges leveled on cross-border use of mobile phones, so-called roaming fees. Telefonica agreed to purchase E-Plus from Dutch telecommunications company Royal KPN NV in a cash and stock deal estimated at about 8.5 billion euros (\$11.6 billion). Telefonica, a Spanish company, plans to merge E-Plus with its own German arm, O2.

For the merger to go through, Telefonica must sell upfront up to 30 percent of the merged company's network capacity to service providers to boost competition in Germany's mobile market, the EU Commission said.

Telefonica must also sell some assets and improve conditions offered to service providers. Those firms sell mobile phone contracts without having their own network, relying on wholesale agreements with incumbent operators. The merger will bring together E-Plus, currently Germany's No. 3 operator with about 23 million customers, with O2 — the fourth-biggest with some 19 million customers. The merged company will have a market share of about 30 percent in Germany, the Commission said. The Commission, which is the 28-nation bloc's antitrust body, in February objected to the deal for fear of weakening competition. □

ADP Survey:

US companies added 281,000 jobs in June

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A private survey shows U.S. business hiring surged in June, a sign of stronger economic growth.

Payroll processor ADP said Wednesday that private employers added 281,000 jobs last month, up from 179,000 in the previous month.

The figure suggests the government's jobs report, to be released Thursday, could also show a significant gain from May's tally of 217,000 jobs. But the ADP numbers cover only private businesses and often diverge from the government's more comprehensive report.

Recent economic data suggests that the economy has shifted into a higher gear. Autos sold at an annual rate of 16.9 million in June, the highest rate since January 2006. New orders for manufacturers are at a six-month peak, according to the Institute for Supply Management.

"The job market is strong and it feels like it is getting stronger," said Mark



Micki Taylor, branch manager of the Mega Force Staffing Services in Kinston, N.C., reviews an orientation booklet with Kenneth Wilson, who is training to become a forklift operator, in Kinston, N.C. Payroll processor ADP said Wednesday, July 2, 2014, that private employers added 281,000 jobs last month, up from 179,000 in the previous month.

(AP Photo/Sara Pezzoni)

Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, which calculated the job gains for ADP.

The improvement in the ADP figures occurred mostly in professional and business services, a category that includes many higher-paying jobs such as accountants and engineers, but also lower-paid temporary workers. That category gained 77,000 jobs.

Goods producers hired 51,000 workers in May, up from 31,000 the previous month.

Small businesses with fewer than 50 employees added 117,000 workers in June. That partially reflects growth in the construction industry where smaller firms tend to represent a larger share of that sector, Zandi said.

Economists forecast that

the government's employment report will show that 215,000 jobs were added in June, according to a survey by FactSet. If that happens, it would be the fifth consecutive month of job additions of more than 200,000. The last time the economy experienced that kind of job growth was in the 1990s during the tech boom, Zandi said.

Wage growth still remains a problem, despite the steady gains. Median household incomes remain lower than what they were in 2007, before the start of the Great Recession.

Steady job growth should cause wages to rise, but such growth could be modest. That is because many unemployed Americans left or were forced out of the jobs market during the downturn. As those workers begin to return, it increases the supply of available employees and reduced pressure on employers to increase wages. "Slowly, but surely wage growth will accelerate going forward," said Zandi, before cautioning that "it probably won't take off." □

US factory orders slide 0.5 percent in May

PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders to U.S. factories fell in May, ending three months of gains. The Commerce Department reported that orders fell 0.5 percent, pulled down by falling demand for military and transportation equipment. That followed increases of 0.8 percent in April, 1.5 percent in March and 1.7 percent in February.

Excluding military hardware, factory orders rose 0.2 percent in May from April. Orders for transportation equipment fell 2.9 percent. Orders for computers and electronic equipment fell 2 percent, biggest monthly drop since December. Orders for durable goods, meant to last three years or more, fell 0.9



An assembly line worker builds a 2015 Chrysler 200 automobile at the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant in Sterling Heights, Mich. The Commerce Department released factory orders for May on Wednesday, July 2, 2014.

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

percent in May. Orders for nondurable goods slipped 0.2 percent.

Factory orders were up 2.5 percent from May 2013. U.S. factories have been busy. The Institute for Supply Management

reported Tuesday that manufacturing expanded in June for the 13th straight month, though the pace of growth slowed from May. A measure of employment showed that factories added jobs for the 12th straight

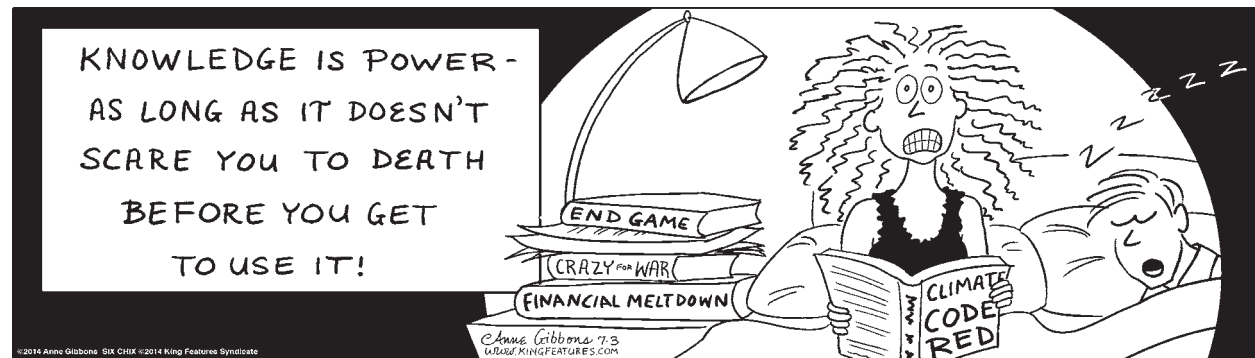
month; the pace of hiring last month was the same as in May.

Manufacturers added 10,000 jobs in May as overall U.S. employers created more than 200,000 jobs for the fourth straight month, longest such stretch since 1999. The government's employment report for June comes out Thursday. The U.S. economy shrank at a 2.9 percent annual rate from January through March. But economists blame the first-quarter drop on an unusually bitter winter and a sharp reduction in businesses' inventories. They expect economic growth to rebound to an annual pace of 3 percent or more the rest of the year, boosted by rising consumer demand and a rebound in U.S. export sales. □

Mutts



6 Chix



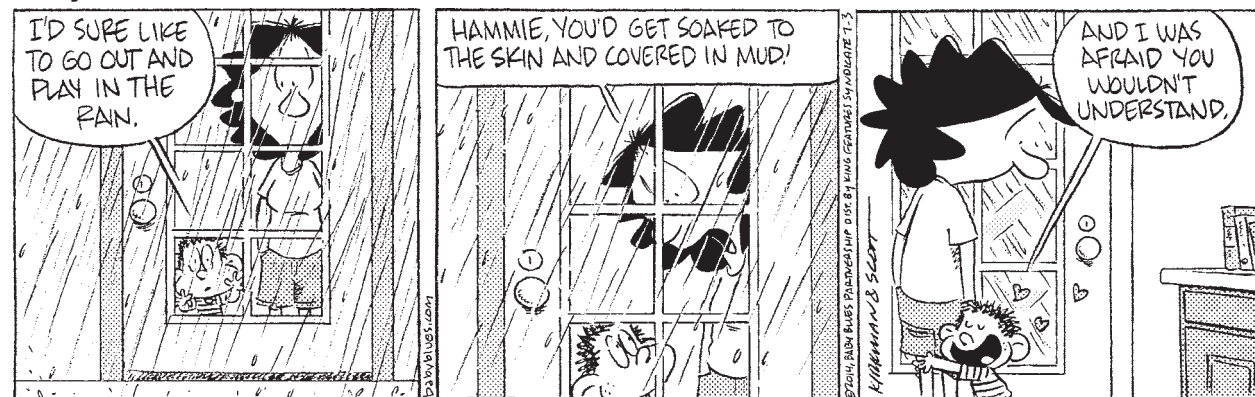
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			2	9		5		
		2				7		
5	8						1	
			7		5			6
1				2				4
3			1		9			
	2						4	7
		3				9		
		1		6	4			

Difficulty Level ★★

7/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

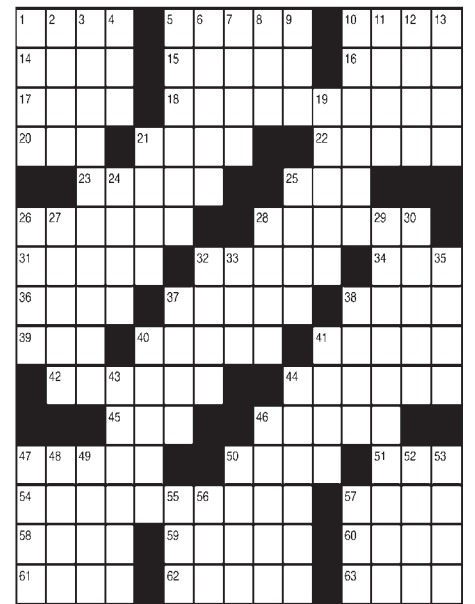
Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	4	2	6	7	1	8	5	3
3	5	7	9	4	8	6	2	1
6	1	8	5	2	3	4	7	9
1	7	3	8	6	2	9	4	5
5	8	6	1	9	4	2	3	7
4	2	9	3	5	7	1	8	6
7	9	4	2	3	6	5	1	8
2	6	1	7	8	5	3	9	4
8	3	5	4	1	9	7	6	2

ACROSS

- 1 Ponder
5 TV's "Green"
10 Dog food brand
14 Elderly
15 ___ up; become happy again
16 Work hard
17 Misfortunes
18 Isolate for health reasons
20 Prepare Easter eggs
21 Throw with force
22 Requests for more slop
23 Series of links
25 Miscalculate
26 Sharp reply
28 Affirm as true
31 Hatred
32 Type of pine tree
34 Cauldron
36 Skunk's defense
37 Small bony fish
38 Tahoe or Erie
39 Swim ___; diver's flipper
40 Popular salad dressing
41 Interwoven
42 School compositions
44 Crows' cousins
45 ___ and hers
46 Soft drinks
47 Danger
50 Mineral springs
51 "If I ___ a Hammer"
54 Exaggerates
57 Ceremony
58 Mountaintop
59 Happening
60 "Once ___ a time..."
61 Goes no further
62 Gingrich's namesakes
63 Notice; see

DOWN
1 Housekeeper
2 Hideous
3 Choices
4 Koch & Bradley
5 Declare not guilty
6 Make butter
7 Not phony
8 Suffix for profit or command
9 Mrs. in Mexico
10 Clothing
11 Cut of pork
12 In the ___; healthy
13 Bullfight cheers
19 Vane direction
21 Hurt; injure
24 60 minutes
25 Engrave
26 Housetop
27 Actor Clorian
28 Part of the foot
29 Rockets
30 Bus rider's coin
32 Camera's eye
33 St. Joan of ___
35 Knight and Kennedy
37 Gives money to
38 Molten rock
49 "___ my lips!"
50 Crock-Pot meal, perhaps
52 Sitting on
53 Declare untrue
55 Bill denomination
56 "___ Maria"
57 Regret



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

7/3/14

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

TUBER	PLAN	MAMA
ASIDE	RARE	AGES
MEDIC	OPTS	TERN
PRETENDS	TWINGE	
ODES	PLANTER	
ANDREW	SUEDE	
JOE	STRIP	SEALS
APAR	SATIN	SCOT
RENEW	CALIF	ETA
	FOYER	CLASSY
ASSURED	LEAN	
CINEMA	MORTGAGE	
TEAL	RHEA	TODAY
OGRE	NOON	ERASE
REED	SEWS	RAMPS

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7/3/14

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Oceanside \$17500
Oceanfront \$27,500
3 BEDRM OV \$27k
Plat. Plus Holiday 51
OV \$46k
Plat. Plus NY 52 OV
\$49k

Marriott Aruba Ocean club

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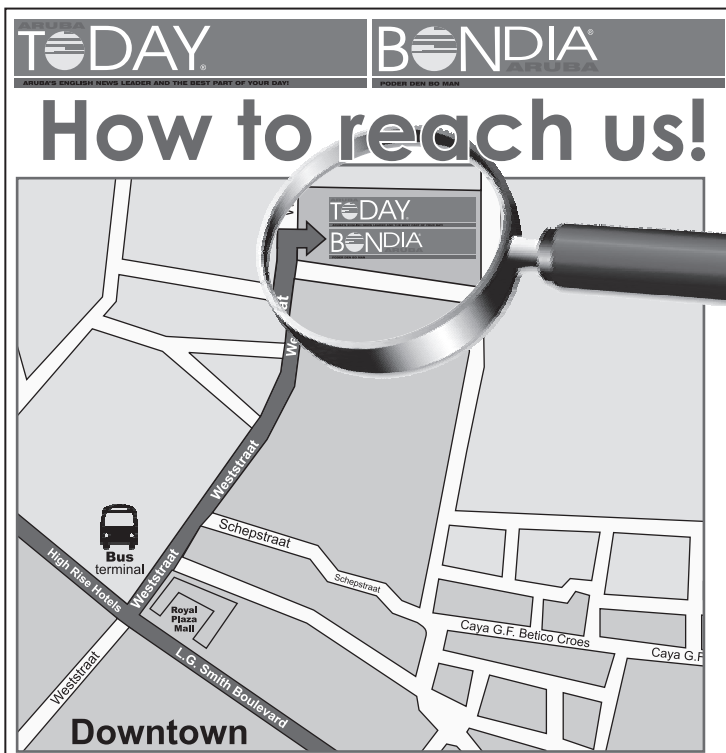
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rm 13 start 7/5 rent \$625 buy
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Ancient gene aids Tibetans with high altitude

MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Tibetans living on the “roof of the world” can thank an extinct human relative for providing a gene that helps them adapt to the high altitude, a study suggests.

Past research has concluded that a particular gene helps people live in the thin air of the Tibetan plateau. Now scientists report that the Tibetan version of that gene is found in DNA from Denisovans, a poorly understood human relative more closely related to Neanderthals than modern people.

Denisovans are known only from fossils in a Siberian cave that are dated to at least about 50,000 years ago. Some of their DNA has also been found in other modern populations, indicating they interbred with ancient members of today's human race long ago.

But the version of the high-altitude gene shared by Denisovans and Tibetans is found in virtually no other population today, researchers report in an article released Wednesday by the journal *Nature*. That suggests that Denisovans or close relatives of theirs introduced the gene variant into the mod-



This undated photo provided by BGI shows daily life in Tibet, an autonomous region of China.

Associated Press

ern human species, but that it remained rare until some people started moving into the Tibetan plateau, said study main author Rasmus Nielsen of the University of California, Berkeley.

At that point, it conferred a survival advantage and so spread through the Tibetan population, he said in an email. It's not clear whether the Denisovans were also adapted to high altitudes, he

said.

The results show that as early members of today's human species expanded outside of Africa and encountered new environments, they could call on their genetic legacies from other species, he said. That's easier than waiting for a helpful genetic mutation to arise, he said.

The Tibetan plateau rises above 13,000 feet (4,000 meters) in ele-

vation. The genetic variant helps survival there by affecting the amount of oxygen the blood can carry when a person is in thin air. Apart from Tibetans, it is found very rarely in Han Chinese and also exists in Mongolians and Sherpas, who are also related to Tibetans and may have picked it up relatively recently, Nielsen said. The researchers found no trace of it outside East Asia.

Todd Disotell, an anthropology professor at New York University who didn't participate in the study, called the new work “one of the coolest scientific results I have seen in a while.... This is a slam-dunk case.”

David Reich, an expert on ancient DNA at Harvard Medical School, called the paper “important and exciting” in showing the gene came from an ancient human relative. But he said that relative could have been Neanderthals, who are also known to have contributed DNA to modern people. Nielsen said the Tibetan gene variant doesn't match any known Neanderthal DNA, but Reich said maybe scientists just haven't yet found DNA from a Neanderthal who carried it. □

Bigfoot hair samples mostly from bears, wolves

MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — DNA testing is taking a bite out of the Bigfoot legend. After scientists analyzed more than 30 hair samples reportedly left behind by Bigfoot and similar mythical beasts like the Himalayan Yeti, they found all of them came from more mundane creatures like bears, wolves, cows and raccoons.

In 2012, researchers at Oxford University and the Lausanne Museum of Zo-

ology issued an open call asking museums, scientists and Bigfoot aficionados to share any samples they thought were from the legendary ape-like creatures. “I thought there was about a 5 percent chance of finding a sample from a Neanderthal or (a Yeti),” said Bryan Sykes of Oxford University, who led the research, the first peer-reviewed study of Bigfoot, Yeti and other “anomalous primates.” The study was published online Wednesday in the journal,

Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

Sykes and colleagues tested 36 hair samples from Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Russia and the U.S. using DNA sequencing and all of them matched DNA from known animals. Most were from bears, but there were also hairs from a Malaysian tapir, horses, porcupine, deer, sheep, and a human.

While Sykes said they didn't find any proof of Bigfoot-related creatures, he acknowledged their paper doesn't prove they don't exist.

“The fact that none of these samples turned out to be (a Yeti) doesn't mean the next one won't,” he said. The scientists did find two samples from ancient polar bears in the Himalayas, who are not known to live there. That suggests there could be a new or hybrid bear species out there, Sykes said.



In this undated photo made available by Britain's Channel 4 television of Oxford University genetics professor Bryan Sykes posing with a prepared DNA sample taken from hair from a Himalayan animal. _

Associated Press

Others said proving that Bigfoot is real requires significantly more than a mere hair sample.

“I would want visual or physical proof, like a body part, on top of the DNA evidence,” said Todd Disotell, a professor of anthropology at New York University. He warned Bigfoot enthusiasts not to make assumptions when they find weird things in the forest. “Every mammal in the forest leaves hair and poop behind and that's what we've found,” he said.

“Just not the big guy himself.”

Some experts said that if Bigfoot existed, there would be a lot more to find than just a few errant hairs. “Those who believe in the Yeti, Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster need basic instruction in sex,” said Stuart Pimm, an ecologist at Duke University, in an email. “Each Yeti has two parents, four grandparents and so on,” he said. “There should have been herds of (Yetis),” he wrote. “Where were they hiding?” □



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Christmas in July: TV week of holiday programming

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Hallmark TV channels are beginning a week's worth of holiday programming on the Fourth of July — but think ornaments and egg nog instead of fireworks and hot dogs.

The stunt on the Hallmark and Hallmark Movie channels begins Friday afternoon and continues into the early morning hours of July 15. Mostly, it will be repeats of the holiday movies that Hallmark traditionally airs during the last two months of the year.

"This is a little bit of escapism," said Bill Abbott, president and CEO of the Crown Media Family Networks, "and that's what television is for."

Hallmark's "Christmas in July" began two years ago as a single weekend intended as corporate synergy. The program-

ming aired to draw attention to the annual debut of new holiday ornaments by Hallmark Cards, yet unexpectedly struck a chord with viewers. The weekend averaged 747,000 viewers, or 55 percent above more season-appropriate fare that aired the same weekend the year before, the Nielsen company said.

Viewership ticked up slightly in 2013 when Hallmark expanded its offerings, and this year the network went all-in. In addition to the movies, Hallmark's daytime show "Home & Family" will offer holiday tips oriented to the time of year, like saving up for shopping or storage of decorations.

"You're always concerned with how viewers will react to this kind of stunt," Abbott said. "The passion that they reacted with was a surprise, on social media particularly. We would receive a lot of feedback. People



This image released by Crown Media shows a scene from the Christmas TV movie "Let it Snow," one of the films to air on Hallmark TV channels for a week, beginning on Independence Day.

Associated Press

Josh Groban shows he's more than a big voice



In this Jan. 3, 2013, file photo, American singer Josh Groban poses for a portrait in New York.

Associated Press

ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Josh Groban admits he was hesitant to show that he was more than a guy with a big voice who could perform sweeping ballads.

"For so much of my career I think I was a little bit protective of the brand or the image of the voice," he said in a recent interview. "And that's half of me. But I think I've been less afraid to let my freak flag fly a little bit — it has waved gloriously in the wind — and it's been fun."

Groban, 33, has shown his

quick wit and easygoing personality on social media and as a guest host on "Live With Kelly!" before Michael Strahan was named Kelly Ripa's permanent co-host. "I scoffed at Twitter when it first started. I was like, 'Oh god, this is ... not what I do,'" he said. "I was having a high-and-mighty thing about it, and then I started doing it and I realized that I could send a tweet like I send a text, and every time I make my friends laugh and they'd go, 'Man, nobody knows how funny you are,' and I'd go, 'No, no, no, well they couldn't.

would buy ornaments and go home and watch a holiday movie."

Besides the rerun movies, Hallmark will air for the first time "Angels Sing," a former theatrical release starring Harry Connick Jr. and Connie Britton.

"Often you can enjoy these movies more when it's not the holidays because the holidays are such a time of stress and hustle and

bustle for people," he said. "Sometimes anticipating the season is better than actually being in the season."

Movies that play best in the summer tend to be family stories where the holidays are more of a backdrop, Abbott said. The Debbie Macomber series will be emphasized, for example. A holiday music special wouldn't particularly work.

Hallmark has toyed with the idea of a holiday-oriented network full-time, although it would feature other seasons besides Christmas.

That would involve risk, though. November and December are big business months for Hallmark, and the company would not want to cut into those ratings. "We have to be very careful of overexposure," Abbott said.

Jennifer Love Hewitt joining CBS' 'Criminal Minds'

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS says Jennifer Love Hewitt is joining the cast of "Criminal Minds" this fall.

She will play Kate Callahan, a seasoned undercover agent whose superior work at the FBI has earned her a place in the Behavioral Analysis Unit.

Hewitt is returning to series TV after five seasons starring on CBS' "Ghost Whisperer," which aired from 2005 to 2010. Before that, she was in the ensemble of the Fox drama "Party of Five." Her films include "I Know What You Did Last Summer" and its sequel.

CBS says her "Criminal Minds" character will be introduced in the series' 10th



In this March 4, 2013 file photo, Jennifer Love Hewitt poses for a portrait, in New York. CBS says Hewitt is joining the cast of "Criminal Minds" in fall 2014.

Associated Press

season premiere, set to air Oct. 1.

The "Criminal Minds" cast

also includes Joe Mantegna, Thomas Gibson, Shemar Moore and A.J. Cook.

Lohan sues over 'Grand Theft Auto V' game

NEW YORK (AP) — Lindsay Lohan is suing the makers of the "Grand Theft Auto" video games. The actress says the latest installment used her image and created a character based on her without her permission. Lohan's lawsuit was filed Wednesday in a Manhattan court. "Grand Theft Auto V" game maker Take-Two Interactive Software Inc. and subsidiary Rockstar Games declined to comment. "Grand Theft Auto V" was released in September. Sales topped \$800 million on its first day. Lohan's lawsuit says a character named Lacey Jonas is an "unequivocal" reference to the "Mean Girls" and "Freaky Friday" star. The suit says Lohan's im-



This April 11, 2013 file photo shows actress Lindsay Lohan, a cast member in "Scary Movie V," at the premiere of the film in Los Angeles. Lohan is suing the makers of the "Grand Theft Auto" video games. Associated Press

age, voice and styles from her clothing line are depicted. It says the game features West Hollywood's Chateau Marmont hotel, where Lohan once lived. The character also seeks help skirting paparazzi. □

Jewel divorcing husband after 16-year relationship



This Feb. 13, 2011 file photo shows Jewel, right, and her husband Ty Murray at the 53rd annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Singer Jewel and her husband are divorcing after a 16-year relationship. The 40-year-old writes in a letter posted on her website that she and Ty Murray want their separation "to be nothing less loving than the way we came together." A representative for the singer confirmed the news Wednesday. Jewel and Murray were

married in 2008. They have a son named Kase. Jewel says she decided to write the post — called "Dear World" — to inform her fans before the news broke in the tabloids. Her hits include "You Were Meant for Me," "Foolish Games" and "Intuition." Her 1995 debut album, "Pieces of You," has sold more than 12 million units in the United States. □

Adam Levine changes his tune in 'Begin Again'



This image released by The Weinstein Company shows Keira Knightley, left, and Adam Levine in a scene from "Begin Again." Associated Press

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Adam Levine knows pop stars-turned-actors are greeted suspiciously. And he's hesitant to make any grandiose declarations about suddenly transforming into an actor. But he also can't help himself.

Following his movie debut in the recently released "Begin Again," the Maroon 5 frontman is exuberant about a potentially budding movie career.

"It really made me fall in love," said Levine about "Begin Again" in a recent interview. "It's the very beginning of something really cool."

The transition is unusually seamless for Levine in "Begin Again," a naturalistic indie about musicians in New York by "Once" director John Carney. Levine plays an aspiring musician, the boyfriend to a singer-songwriter played by Keira Knightley. But it's his breakthrough that's brought them to New York, and his fast-growing fame pulls the couple apart.

"I had been through that before, maybe not the same version," says Levine of the tumult of sudden fame. "That's what connected me to this guy. I immediately understood exactly what needed to be done with this character just based on my life's experience."

The 35-year-old Levine grew up in Los Angeles, so acting in movies was, he says, always "somewhere in the back of my mind." Carney approached him about the film and Levine jumped at the chance, working for little pay.

"I knew that I would try doing it," he says. "Because of the other wonderful things that have happened in my life and my career, I'd been given the opportunity to try it. I thought to myself, 'Well, I'm going to try it. I'm not going to not try it.'"

Levine, of course, is familiar with working in front of the camera. Aside from music videos for Maroon 5 and a cameo on "30 Rock," he's been a judge on NBC's "The Voice" since 2011. He also played an arc as a newlywed visiting an insane asylum on FX's "American Horror Story" in 2012.

"He's so confident and he's such a natural entertainer and he's very comfortable on camera because he does that show and he's made lots of music videos," says Knightley. "He kept claiming he didn't know what he was doing, but it looked like he knew exactly what he was doing to me."

Though "Begin Again" represents a more substantial shift into acting for Levine, he drew heavily from his day job.

In one of the film's most moving scenes, Levine performs the original song "Lost Stars" while Knightley's character looks on. The song, which Levine wrote with former New Radicals frontman Gregg Alexander, will be pushed for an Oscar by the film's distributor, the Weinstein Co. "Everything about the things that I experienced while making this movie just felt very real," says Levine. "It never felt pretend. It always felt like we were making a documentary." □

The Evolution of Trust



DAVID BROOKS
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I'm one of those people who thought Airbnb would never work. I thought people would never rent out space in their homes to near strangers. But I was clearly wrong. Eleven million travelers have stayed in Airbnb destinations, according to data shared by the company. Roughly 550,000 homes are now being shared by hosts. Airbnb is more popular in Europe than it is even in the United States. Paris is the largest destination city.

And Airbnb is only a piece of the peer-to-peer economy. People are renting out their cars to people they don't know, dropping off their pets with people they don't know, renting power tools to people they don't know.

In retrospect, I underestimated the power of a few trends that make the peer-to-peer economy possible. First, I underestimated the effects of middle-class stagnation. With wages flat and families squeezed, many people have to return to the boarding-house model of yesteryear. They have to rent out rooms to cover their mortgage or rent.

Second, I underestimated the power that liberal arts majors would have on the economy. Millions of people have finished college with a hunger for travel and local contact, but without much money. They would rather stay in spare rooms in residential neighborhoods than in homogenized hotels in commercial areas, especially if they get to have breakfast with the hosts in the morning.

And the big thing I underestimated was the transformation of social trust. In primitive economies, people traded mostly with members of their village and community. Trust was face to face. Then, in the mass economy we've been used to, people bought from large and stable corporate brands, whose behavior was made more reliable by government regulation.

But now there is a new trust calculus, powered by both social and economic forces. Socially, we have large numbers of people living loose unstructured lives, mostly in the 10 years after leaving college and in the 10 years after retirement.

These people often live alone or with short-time roommates, outside big institutional structures, like universities, corporations or the settled living of family life. They become very fast and fluid in how they make social connections. They become accus-

tomed to instant intimacy, or at least fast pseudo-intimacy. People are both hungrier for human contact and more tolerant of easy-come-easy-go fluid relationships.

Economically, there are many more people working as freelancers. These people are more individualistic in how they earn money. They often don't go to an office. They have traded dependence on big organizational systems for dependence on people they can talk to and negotiate arrangements with directly. They become accustomed to flexible ad-hoc arrangements.

The result is a personalistic culture in which people have actively lost trust in big institutions. Strangers don't seem especially risky by comparison. This is fertile ground for peer-to-peer commerce. Companies like Airbnb establish trust through ratings mechanisms. Their clients are already adept at evaluating each other on the basis of each other's Facebook pages. People in the Airbnb economy don't have the option of trusting each other on the basis of institutional affiliations, so they do it on the basis of online signaling and peer evaluations. Online ratings follow you everywhere, so people have an incentive to act in ways that will buff their online reputation.

As companies like Airbnb, Lyft and Sidecar get more mature, they also spend more money policing their own marketplace. They hire teams to hunt out fraud. They screen suppliers. They look for bad apples who might ruin the experience.

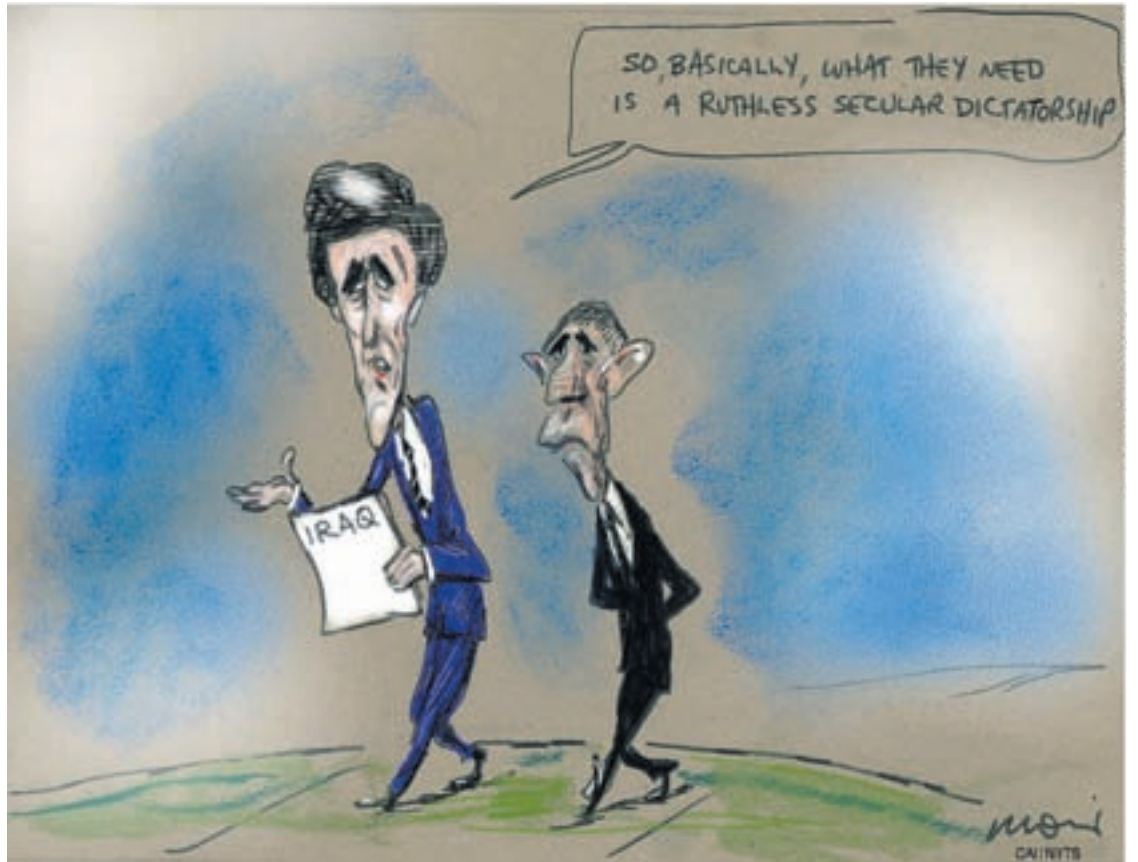
The one thing the peer-to-peer economy has not relied on much so far is government regulation. The people who use these companies may be mostly political progressives, but they are operating in a lightly regulated economic space. They vote left but click right.

As this sector matures, government is getting more involved. City officials have clashed with Airbnb and Uber on a range of issues. But most city governments don't seem inclined to demand tight regulations and oversight. Centralized agencies don't know what to make of decentralized trust networks. Moreover, in most cities people seem to understand this is a less formal economy and caveat emptor rules to a greater degree.

Meanwhile, companies like Airbnb and even Uber seem inclined to compromise and play nice with city governments. They're trying to establish reputations as good citizens, to play nice with bureaucrats and co-op boards; they can't do that with in-your-face, disruptive tactics.

We're probably entering a world in which some sectors, like energy, retain top-down regulatory regimes. Other sectors, like bake sales, are unregulated. But more sectors, like peer-to-peer, exist in a gray zone in between.

As mechanisms to establish private trust become more efficient, government plays a smaller role. □



Charlatans, Cranks and Kansas



PAUL KRUGMAN
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Two years ago Kansas embarked on a remarkable fiscal experiment: It sharply slashed income taxes without any clear idea of what would replace the lost revenue. Sam Brownback, the governor, proposed the legislation - in percentage terms, the largest tax cut in one year any state has ever enacted - in close consultation with the economist Arthur Laffer. And Brownback predicted that the cuts would jumpstart an economic boom - "Look out, Texas," he proclaimed.

But Kansas isn't booming - in fact, its economy is lagging both neighboring states and America as a whole. Meanwhile, the state's budget has plunged deep into deficit, provoking a Moody's downgrade of its debt. There's an important lesson here - but it's not what you think. Yes, the Kansas debacle shows that tax cuts don't have magical powers, but we already knew that. The real lesson from Kansas is the enduring power of bad ideas, as long as those ideas serve the interests of the right people.

Why, after all, should anyone believe at this late date in supply-side economics, which claims that tax cuts boost the economy so much that they largely if not entirely pay for themselves? The doctrine crashed and burned two decades ago, when just about everyone on the right - after claiming, speciously, that the

economy's performance under Ronald Reagan validated their doctrine - went on to predict that Bill Clinton's tax hike on the wealthy would cause a recession if not an outright depression. What actually happened was a spectacular economic expansion.

Nor is it just liberals who have long considered supply-side economics and those promoting it to have been discredited by experience. In 1998, in the first edition of his best-selling economics textbook, Harvard's N. Gregory Mankiw - very much a Republican, and later chairman of George W. Bush's Council of Economic Advisers - famously wrote about the damage done by "charlatans and cranks." In particular, he highlighted the role of "a small group of economists" who "advised presidential candidate Ronald Reagan that an across-the-board cut in income tax rates would raise tax revenue." Chief among that "small group" was none other than Art Laffer.

And it's not as if supply-siders later redeemed themselves. On the contrary, they've been as ludicrously wrong in recent years as they were in the 1990s. For example, five years have passed since Laffer warned Americans that "we can expect rapidly rising prices and much, much higher interest rates over the next four or five years." Just about everyone in his camp agreed. But what we got instead was low inflation and record-low interest rates.

So how did the charlatans and cranks end up dictating policy in Kansas, and to a more limited extent in other states? Follow the money.

For the Brownback tax cuts didn't emerge out of thin air. They closely followed a blueprint laid out by the American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC, which has also supported a series of economic studies purporting to show that tax cuts for

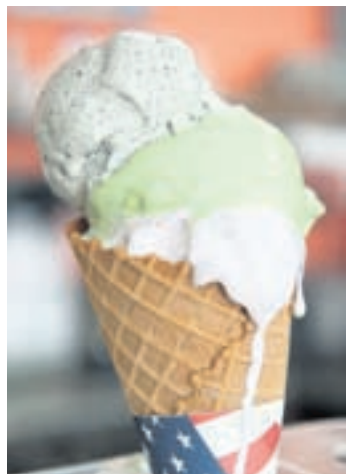
corporations and the wealthy will promote rapid economic growth. The studies are embarrassingly bad, and the council's Board of Scholars - which includes both Laffer and Stephen Moore of the Heritage Foundation - doesn't exactly shout credibility. But it's good enough for antigovernment work.

And what is ALEC? It's a secretive group, financed by major corporations, that drafts model legislation for conservative state-level politicians. Ed Pilkington of The Guardian, who acquired a number of leaked ALEC documents, describes it as "almost a dating service between politicians at the state level, local elected politicians, and many of America's biggest companies." And most of ALEC's efforts are directed, not surprisingly, at privatization, deregulation, and tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy.

And I do mean for the wealthy. While ALEC supports big income-tax cuts, it calls for increases in the sales tax - which fall most heavily on lower-income households - and reductions in tax-based support for working households. So its agenda involves cutting taxes at the top while actually increasing taxes at the bottom, as well as cutting social services.

But how can you justify enriching the already wealthy while making life harder for those struggling to get by? The answer is, you need an economic theory claiming that such a policy is the key to prosperity for all. So supply-side economics fills a need backed by lots of money, and the fact that it keeps failing doesn't matter.

And the Kansas debacle won't matter either. Oh, it will briefly give states considering similar policies pause. But the effect won't last long, because faith in tax-cut magic isn't about evidence; it's about finding reasons to give powerful interests what they want. □



A cone with scoops of sesame, green tea and taro ice cream, at Sweet Dynasty in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

(Nancy Borowick/The New York Times)

LIGAYA MISHAN

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The ice cream had been cut into a half-moon slab that was dense to the touch and so cold my fingers went numb. It required teeth. It tasted as if it had been made on a planet with stronger gravity, concentrated yet airy, and smoking cold all the way down.

It's hard to be astonished by ice cream these days. We've grown inured to the exotic, with a new generation of indie Baskin-Robbinses flaunting flavors like banana curry, Sichuan peppercorn and lox.

But there are other, older ice cream parlors, tucked away in ethnic enclaves in and around New York City, where the flavors may seem exotic but are familiar to and beloved by those who make them; where ingredients like seaweed and pine sap are not tokens of acquired worldliness but occasions for nostalgia; where even the standard ice cream textures (that is, creamy or icy) don't apply. Over the last several weeks, I've traveled from New Jersey to Westchester County, New York, to seek out some of the more intriguing and undercelebrated shops.

The ice cream I ate with my teeth isn't ice cream as Americans know it. Called kulfi, it is an Indian dessert dating back to the Mughal Empire, made from milk simmered until thick as cream, caramelized and nutty. I had tried it many times, from freezer bins at grocers and at restaurants

high and low, but never fully submitted to its charms. Then I arrived at Kwaliti Ice Cream, which has, among other locations, a tiny storefront in Jersey City on a strip of henna salons and Indian cash-and-carries, a few blocks from the PATH station at Journal Square. (Only three stops from lower Manhattan, folks.) It has three flavors of kulfi: malai (in which the rich milk reduction is steeped with cardamom pods), pista (pistachio, with a nubby rind of nuts) and kesar (saffron, the lushest).

Kwaliti has traditional

shews, almonds and pistachios; chickoo, laced with a fruit that conjures malt and spun sugar; and pan masala, named after (and studded with) the sprinkle of seeds, nuts, lime, cloves and menthol that you might throw into your mouth at the end of an Indian meal. It half stings, like toothpaste.

Try to scoop up the ice cream at Cedars Pastry, in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, and it stretches upward, tugging at the spoon, resisting. The tackiness comes from a base of kashta, Lebanese clotted cream, skimmed

dangered, so Lezzetli Ice Cream - which recently started selling its homage to dondurma at the Hester Street Fair on the Lower East Side - substitutes Japanese konjac powder. The ice cream is churned in a machine, frozen, then beaten with a long rod (as is traditional) until it clings to itself. Of the four flavors currently available, Chios vanilla, named after the Greek island where the mastic tree grows and thoroughly colonized by flecks of vanilla bean, is the doughiest; pull it and you can see strands of part, as with string cheese.

cream-soaked cake; and mamey, hibiscus pink and tasting of almonds, raspberries and sweet potato pie.

Sweet Dynasty, next to a gas station on a noisy avenue in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, favors the standard voluptuous American style of ice cream, in flavors like purple taro (almost a deeper, rounder vanilla) and red bean (not too sweet, a rarity for this flavor). Also lurking is durian, the fruit so notoriously smelly that in some Southeast Asian nations it is illegal to eat on mass transit. Even in the freezer case it's clearly trouble, the only ice cream to have a lid tamped over it. Odd, because it had no scent at all, only the fruit's vaguely sweaty flavor, a swirl of custard, papaya, caramelized onions, butterscotch and cheese.

Sundaes and Cones started out in Brooklyn, before moving to the East Village. Here green tea yields just enough bitterness to prove its origins; black sesame tastes more exactly of its title ingredient than any I've had. But wasabi is strangely deracinated, all flavor and no heat. To the south, Chinatown Ice Cream Factory has the scenic advantage of a cinematically claustrophobic Chinatown block (plus Xi'an Famous Foods next door, for lamb face as a chaser). Scoops are wildly generous. Zen Butter captures the essence of cold sesame noodles. But other flavors, like a pleasant but umami-less soy sauce, occasionally go out of focus. Thai ice creams tend to be more crystalline and sweeter, at least the ones found at Skylce in Park Slope, Brooklyn, which does well with evanescent flavors like cucumber lime and lychee rose; and at Tea Cup Cafe in Elmhurst, Queens, which serves, amid a clutter of Blythe dolls and Polaroids, ice creams suffused with green tea, military in color and tasting almost burned, and Thai tea, garish orange with a distant floral tinge. □



Slabs of kesar, malai and pista, traditional Indian kulfi-style ice creams served at Kwaliti Ice Cream in Jersey City, N.J. Tucked away in the New York region's ethnic enclaves, old-guard ice cream parlors work with flavors that may seem exotic but are beloved by regulars.

(Matt Rainey/The New York Times)

American-style ice creams as well, including some confusingly labeled kulfi. "They are kulfi-inspired," the salesclerk said. One named Mawa Kulfi approximates the flavor of kulfi's caramelized milk base, which is like vanilla ice cream minus the vanilla; faloodeh, a floatlike drink of kulfi and rice vermicelli, is reimagined as Faloodeh Kulfi, a self-sufficient ice cream permeated with rosewater and crunchy with basil seeds.

Here, too, are thandai, a buttery compound of ca-

off the top of boiled and slowly cooling milk and mixed with glassy tear-drops of mastic resin. There are mainstream flavors like chocolate and strawberry, but pay them no mind. The stretchiest varieties are plain kashta, chewy yet icy at once, and the less sugary, better balanced kash-ta with pistachio.

Dondurma, Turkish ice cream, is traditionally made with goat's milk, mastic and salep, which is derived from the bulbs of wild Anatolian orchids. These flowers are now en-

Paleteria El Sabor de Michoacan is an unassuming Mexican shop in New Rochelle, New York, about a half-mile from the Metro-North station. On my visit, none of the ice creams in the freezer case were labeled, but the salesclerk kindly recited them all. Best were tequila, a shade of blue somewhere between swimming pool and Tulum, tasting almost like the real thing, albeit with the edges buffed; lime, fluorescent green and seethingly tangy; tres leches, loaded with chunks of milk-and-